

OFFICIAL



2 FREE POSTERS!

The Superstars Of
WrestleMania XXX
& Hulk Hogan

INSIDE!



30

WRESTLEMANIA XXX
MYSTERIES
REVEALED!

THE WWE
ALL-STAR
TEAM!

Find Out Who
Made The Cut
P.36

GET
ABS LIKE
DOLPH
ZIGGLER!
The Show Off
Shows You How



DANIEL BRYAN
CAN HE SURVIVE THE AUTHORITY?

JOHN CENA
HOW WILL HE TOP HIMSELF?

RANDY ORTON
IS HE "THE FACE OF WWE"?

UNDERTAKER
WILL HE MAKE IT TO 22-0?



WWE.COM/MAGAZINE







Laissez les bons temps rouler

WRESTLEMANIA XXX

SUNDAY APRIL 6 7E/4P

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NETWORK



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WWE.COM

#WRESTLEMANIA

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What will John Cena's epic entrance entail? Will The Shield stay leashed together or will The Hounds of Justice break their chains? Will Papa Shango work his voodoo? All these questions and more will be answered at The Show of Shows. Plus the 30 Most Underrated 'Mania Matches!



56 THE LEGEND OF BRONX HONDA

Who is Bronx Honda, you might ask? It's a question that's been troubling us for years actually. He might be the most illustrious and elusive grappler to never actually lace his boots up in a WWE ring. From wrestling journalists and WWE Archivists to ECW originals and current Superstars, we tried to uncover any and all clues about this mysterious international icon.

60 REMEMBER THAT TIME?

WWE has certainly created its fair share of memorable moments over the years. But there are some seemingly random ones that have stuck with the members of *WWE Magazine*, *WWE.com* and Video Teams that we just had to share with you here.

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68 RINGSIDE

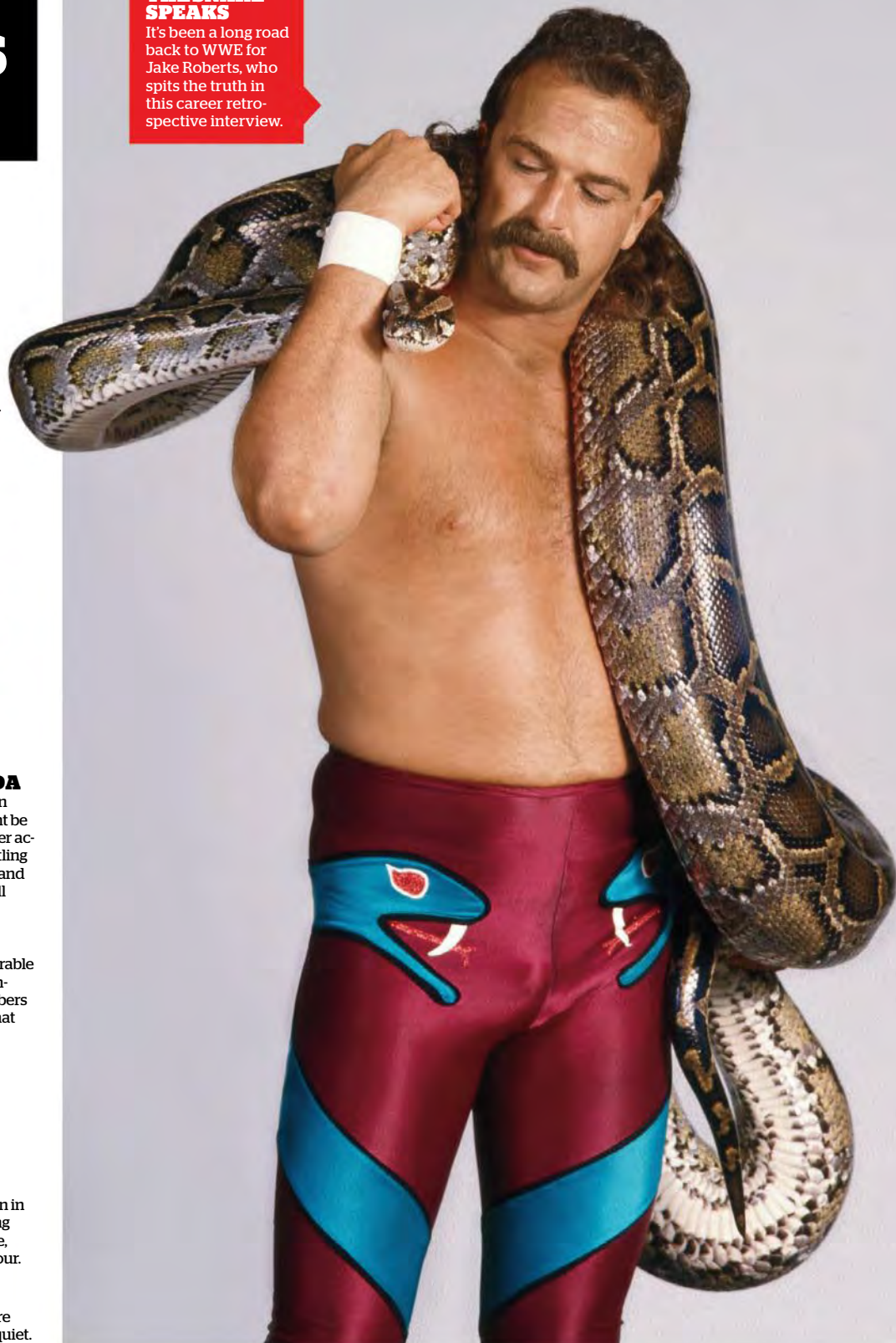
Experience the most eye-popping, must-see action in the WWE Universe, as The Wyatts pick a surprising new victim, redemption comes inside a Steel Cage, and an impromptu Team Hell No reunion turns sour.

80 BACKPAGE/BACKSTAGE

The Shield's Dean Ambrose takes a moment before stepping into the crowd to appreciate peace and quiet.

76 THE SNAKE SPEAKS

It's been a long road back to WWE for Jake Roberts, who spits the truth in this career retrospective interview.



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JOHN CENA BRODUS CLAY MICHAEL COLE KANE AJ LEE SANTINO MARELLA THE MIZ TRIPLE H MR. MCMAHON
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DETECTIVE SKILLS

WRESTLEMANIA MYSTERIES!

What's going down on April 6th?
WWE Magazine is on the case and
on the way to The Superdome!

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↓

Call it the wrestling-journalists in us, but we always want to get to the bottom of a really good mystery, especially when it comes to uncovering what might be going down at The Show of Shows. We've got 30 hard hitting questions that we need answered at *WrestleMania XXX* (Page 50). What will John Cena's epic entrance be like? Will The Shield make it out as a unit? Will Papa Shango bring the voodoo? But all our anxiousness in getting to New Orleans also has us feeling a bit nostalgic. And now that WWE Network is here, we'll be able to scratch that itch for some of our favorite way-back moments in a feature we're calling, "Remember That Time..." (Page 60). We also chatted with the soon-to-be-enshrined WWE Hall of Famer, Jake "The Snake" Roberts, for a career retrospective Q&A (Page 76). There's also one more mystery that needs solving: what do we have in store for the 100th issue of the re-launched *WWE Magazine* next month? Something (and someone) pretty phenomenal we can assure you. See you at *WrestleMania*!

ON THE COVER

WRESTLEMANIA XXX

DIGITAL IMAGING BY
Eric Heintz

BONUS

Discover
The Legend of
Bronx Honda!

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BRAWL

+ YOUR BARE-KNUCKLE GUIDE TO THE WORLD OF WRESTLING

RAW FOOTAGE

BATISTA BOMBS DEL RIO THROUGH A TABLE RAW

FEBRUARY 10, 2014
LOS ANGELES, CA

Maybe Alberto Del Rio hated Evolution, or doesn't care for *Guardians of the Galaxy*. Nevermind the why, ADR didn't welcome Batista back to WWE with open arms. So when The Animal's attempts to peacefully settle their differences failed, and after Del Rio smacked him with a mic, all bets were off. A week later, The Animal unleashed his fury on "The E of E," but with no Spanish announce table in sight, he had to make do, Batista Bombing him through the Raw announce desk.



Photography by **RICH FREEDA**



FRIDAY NIGHT FIGHT

10-MAN TAG DESCENDS INTO CHAOS SMACKDOWN

JANUARY 24, 2014
GRAND RAPIDS, MI

Tag team matches became a *SmackDown* institution during Teddy Long's tenure as General Manager. So the former GM must've been smiling as The Brotherhood, Big E Langston, and The Usos battled The New Age Outlaws and The Shield—and a couple interlopers like Damien Sandow and Ryback. It's fitting Cody Rhodes stood above the rest of the field, though, given his total of five Tag Team Title reigns and his undeniably major role in 2013's tag team renaissance.



Photography by CRAIG MELVIN



CLASSIC MOMENT

RICK RUDE VS. THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR WRESTLEMANIA V

APRIL 2, 1989
ATLANTIC CITY, NJ

It takes some guts to stare down an undefeated beast at the biggest event of the year, so Rick Rude deserves some credit. The Ultimate Warrior built an impressive winning streak and came to *WrestleMania V* with the Intercontinental Championship, but Rude wouldn't be scared away. Granted, he defeated the Warrior thanks to a major assist from manager Bobby "The Brain" Heenan, but anyone facing the Ultimate one needed all the help they could get.

WRESTLEMANIA V





BY THE NUMBERS

THE ROYAL RUMBLE MATCH

JANUARY 26, 2014
PITTSBURGH, PA

Multi-time World Champ Batista may have won the Rumble Match, but it was the Rumble rookies who highlighted the melee. Luke Harper and Erick Rowan teamed up to show that even the Rumble can't drive a wedge in The Wyatts. Antonio Cesaro spun Pittsburgh into a frenzy with his seemingly infinite Cesaro swing. No. 2 entrant Seth Rollins lasted 48:31 in the bout. Most impressively, though, Roman Reigns eliminated a record-setting number of Superstars. A veteran may have won, but the future looks bright.

W ROYAL RUMBLE

\$1M

Amount that Head and Shoulders has insured in Pittsburgh Steelers safety Troy Polamalu's hair. The H&S spokesman and favorite of the Steel City (host of the 2014 *Royal Rumble*) hadn't cut his three-foot-long mane in 12 years before trimming four locks of it off in 2013 for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Luke Harper may have an impressive hairdo, but he has a ways to go to match Polamalu.

42.34%

Percentage of No. 2 entrants to last more than a half hour in the Royal Rumble Match. Seth Rollins might not have appeared to have the luck of the draw, but he managed to last for 48:31 in the match, making him the 11th Superstar to survive for more than 30 minutes from the No. 2 spot. Twelve Superstars have survived more than a half hour from No. 1, though.

1758

Year the British established Fort Pitt at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers, which form the Ohio River, after gaining control of the area by booting the French. The intersection of the three rivers is marked with a large fountain called "The Point." It's the water equivalent of The Shields's three-man fist bump. Believe in the 'Burgh!

12

Competitors Roman Reigns eliminated, setting a new record for Superstars tossed from a single Rumble Match. Perhaps more impressively, though, 13 is the number of career World Championships held by those Superstars—Kevin Nash (6, including 5 WCW World Championships), Dolph Ziggler (2), The Great Khali (2), JBL (2), and Sheamus (3).

28

Revolutions in Antonio Cesaro's swing of Seth Rollins. He spun the "architect" of The Shield for 37 seconds in the middle of the Royal Rumble Match after entering the bout at the No. 21 spot. Cesaro shined for The Real Americans, lasting five minutes longer than tag partner Jack Swagger, but he ultimately became another name on Roman Reigns's list of eliminations.







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The WrestleMania Poetry Slam!

We love haikus—those 17-syllable Japanese poems you used to write in English class—and *WrestleMania* in equal measure, so we got together with some black be-
rets and chai tea to bang out 30 verses for you to enjoy as we prepare for *WMXXX*!

送葬者

摔角狂热



WHAT A HEARTBREAKING
LOSS FOR THE KID IN PHOENIX
COST HIM HIS CAREER

尚恩·麥可



WRESTLEMANIA

I pity the fool
Who fights female pop stars and
Super Mario.

WRESTLEMANIA 2

When you put twenty
Wrestlers and athletes in
The ring, Andre wins.

WRESTLEMANIA III

Unstoppable force
meets immovable object
in the main event.

WRESTLEMANIA IV

Atlantic City
The place, not the Springsteen tune
Hosted this tourney.

WRESTLEMANIA V

Miss Elizabeth,
The Mega-Powers Explode.
One explodes less.

WRESTLEMANIA VI

Hulkamania
Or destrucity's power
Who's your champion?

WRESTLEMANIA VII

Retirement Match
Reunion for one couple
Tearjerker moment.

WRESTLEMANIA VIII

Friendship torn apart
Beginning of a psycho
Harvey Wippleman.

WRESTLEMANIA IX

The biggest toga
party, ever, even had
ghost riding camels.

WRESTLEMANIA X

Don't lose your balance
Or you may lose your title
Ask Yokozuna.

WRESTLEMANIA XI

What do you get when
You cross a New York Giant
With a head tattoo?

WRESTLEMANIA XII

Too much wrestling.
When hourlong Iron Man
Match goes to overtime.

WRESTLEMANIA 13

Stone Cold passed out when
The pain was too much to bear.
But he never quit.

WRESTLEMANIA XIV

Stone Cold was reeling
HBK had Iron Mike
But Tyson tricked him!

WRESTLEMANIA XV

As corporate champ
The Rock was going to roll
Not so, says Austin.

WRESTLEMANIA 2000

Fatal 4 way match
A McMahon in each corner
Family comes first?

WRESTLEMANIA X-SEVEN

Three tag teams enter.
Add tables, ladders and chairs.
Voila. Magic made.

WRESTLEMANIA X8

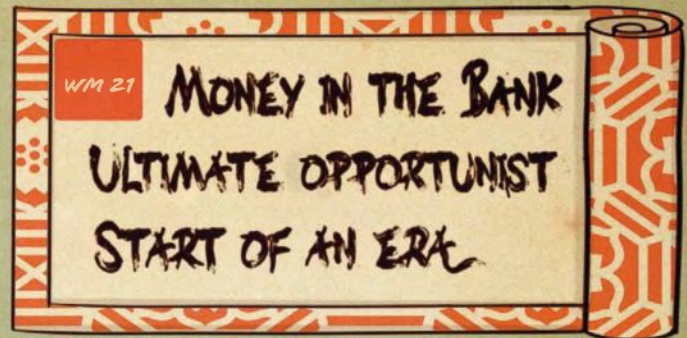
Icon verse icon
In the ring for the first time
Match of a lifetime.

WRESTLEMANIA XIX

Austin's looking rough.
Can he take down The Great One?
Nope. Guess he couldn't.

WRESTLEMANIA XX

It was a good thing
Eddie forgot to tie his
Shoes. Because he won.



WRESTLEMANIA 22

Fire on table
Burnt to a crisp by the Spear
Greatest Hardcore Match.

WRESTLEMANIA 23

Billionaires battle
Over who will lose their locks
One pricey haircut.

WRESTLEMANIA XXIV

Nature or nurture
Is a good debate settled
By the best ever.

25TH ANNIV. 'MANIA

Punted dad and son
Enter vengeful son-in-law
The Viper is toast.

WRESTLEMANIA XXVII

The Great One returns
To the dismay of one man
And costs him the match.

WRESTLEMANIA XXVIII

Once in a lifetime
Two Superstars go at it
To prove who's the best.

WRESTLEMANIA 29

The Best in the World
Tries to defeat The Phenom
Another victim.

WRESTLEMANIA XXX

New Orleans, it's time.
WrestleMania is here.
Let the good times roll.



It means either "30"
or the symbol for
"hope."



BETTER PULL OVER

ROUGH ROAD AHEAD

Sometimes
The Road to
WrestleMania
features a few
potholes!



► Animal Unleashed

After John Cena won the
2010 Chamber Match, The
Champ was forced to defend
his title against Batista.



► Temper Tantrum

HBK couldn't stand that
'Taker turned down a
rematch, so he cost him the
gold in the chamber.



► Big Flop

The debuting Big Show
couldn't help Mr. McMahon
beat Stone Cold at 1999's *St.*
Valentine's Day Massacre.



► Stunned

Stone Cold cost Bret Hart the
gold on *Raw*, giving Sycho
Sid the win, and setting up
their *WM13* "I Quit" match.

The Life Cycle of a WWE Tag Team

Thanks to the success of teams like The Usos, Los Matadores and the Real Americans, as well as the re-birth of a couple of our favorite Outlaws, tag teams in WWE are all the rage again. But did you know that there's actually a scientific foundation to the art of tag team wrestling? Take a look!

3 THE CHAMPIONSHIP STAGE

The ultimate goal for any good team is gold, er, copper. Those beautiful pennies, the WWE Tag Team Titles are what all those double side-Russian Legsweeps are for. It's a symbol that this once-tiny and young team has evolved into its more mature state. Those titles are a symbol of dominance to other Superstar, and a warning to stand clear. But teams need to remember not to leave them on the train tracks.



Two titles to rule them all.

1 THE NEXT STAGE

Some tag teams, like The Usos, are fortunate enough to form in the womb. Sometimes two guys are thrown together. Regardless of the how, a natural bonding occurs between these two. Those ties strengthen through traveling together, training together and getting yelled at by Bill DeMott together. And after many months the pair will emerge triumphantly on Raw to defeat 3MB.



4 THE BARBERSHOP WINDOW STAGE

It's a natural evolution of the WWE lifecycle, but it's an ugly one. When a team splits, there's always a Shawn Michaels and a Marty Jannetty. And you don't want to be the Marty. It's like when a female praying mantis eats her mate. It's better to be the half that goes on to championship triumph, and not the half that winds up as Ryback food.





WARRIOR'S BEST!

It's not a joke, WWE releases a home video collection on The Ultimate Warrior April 1. Here's a refresher course of the biggest moments from the Master of Destructivity.



SummerSlam 1988 New York, NY

► **ULTIMATE WARRIOR VS THE HONKY TONK MAN**

The Honky Tonk Man issued an open challenge to anyone backstage. Cue The Ultimate Warrior who wiped the floor with Tonk in 31 seconds.



WrestleMania VI Toronto, CA

► **ULTIMATE WARRIOR VS HULK HOGAN**

The powers of Destructivity pulled off the upset and won his first and only WWE Title, creating a *WrestleMania* moment that will last a lifetime.



SummerSlam 1990 Philadelphia, PA

► **ULTIMATE WARRIOR VS RICK RUDE**

Warrior dispatched Bobby Heenan and followed it up by dropping Rude, taunting him as he climbed out of the cage, title reign intact.



Royal Rumble 1991 Miami, FL

► **ULTIMATE WARRIOR VS SGT. SLAUGHTER**

Sgt. Slaughter had "gone rogue" to sympathize with the Iraq military. That, and the Macho Man, combined to screw the Warrior out of the title.

fig 1.a

Double the business, double the party

2 THE TASSELS & NEON STAGE

The team's natural melding process.

A healthy young tag team should be a color-coordinated unit. Accessories and hair-styles should match, each half indistinguishable from the other. The phrase "two becoming one" is not just about weddings.

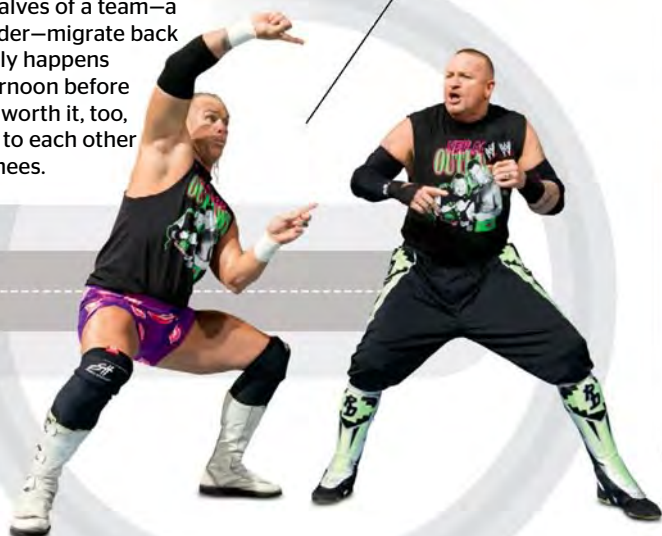


fig 1.b

They knew, now you know

5 THE "YOU STILL GOT IT!" STAGE

This may take several years after a tag team splinters, but eventually the initial bonds start twitching, and the two halves of a team—a little older and a little wider—migrate back to one another. It typically happens around the Monday afternoon before Old School Raw. And it's worth it, too, which is what they'll say to each other as they ice down their knees.





Jerk —OF THE— Month

Every 30 days, *WWE Magazine* celebrates the roster's most malicious malcontents and the evil they've wrought on the WWE Universe by honoring them with our prestigious trophy. Say hello to this month's bad guy: **Alberto Del Rio**.

THE ESSENCE OF EXCELLENCE JERK INDEX We're Willing To Overlook

Self-esteem has never been a problem for Alberto Del Rio. Since day one, he's always thought he was destined to be the greatest Superstar of all time. Del Rio knows how to talk the talk, but thing is, he backs it up, too.

Kinda Jerkish

Del Rio showcases his mixed martial arts background with his painful armbar. But he showcases how much of a jerk he is by holding it long after his opponent quits. It's not enough for Del Rio to win a match; he has to humiliate and punish others in the process.

Major League Jerk

After wiping the floor with Sin Cara, Del Rio took their beef to Twitter. It's easy to talk tough behind a smartphone, Del Rio. We prefer to see our Superstars settle their beefs in the ring, not in 140 characters.

Total & Complete Jerk

Only the biggest jerks in WWE pick on those weaker than themselves, especially when that person is supposed to be your best friend, Ricardo Rodriguez. Et tu, Del Rio?

→ "Those other Superstars are not on the level of Alberto Del Rio. They're just like little peasants compared to my greatness. Just take a look at a guy like Batista. He's no wrestler. No one is going to take what's mine, whether it's the Royal Rumble, the World Title or the main event of *WrestleMania*. If you mess with Alberto Del Rio, bad things are going to happen to you."



WRESTLEMANIA XXX

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Crowd Control: How To Deal With The Shield

You're sitting in your aisle seats enjoying *Raw*, when suddenly you hear "Sierra-Hotel-India...". Seconds later you're face to face with The Hounds of Justice. What's your move? Here are some expert tips on how to avoid becoming collateral damage.



ROGER THAT

MAYDAY!



DON'T

Any picture of The Shield will be the last selfie you ever take. There are no "5-second poses" or poses of any time period for that matter.

DO

Yelling is fine. Offering them some of your popcorn is not.

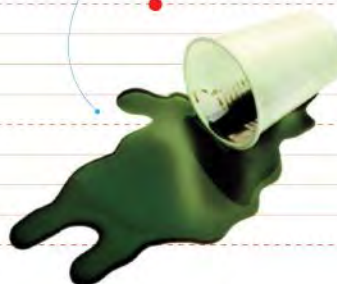


DO

Allow security to do their job. Think The Shield need muscle? He's there to protect YOU from them.

DON'T

Try and save your spilled soda. You'll spare yourself the empty calories and the broken wrist.



DON'T

Get in the way. This is most pertinent to survival, The Hounds of Justice are on a mission, and to them you are a flea. Avoid extermination.



DON'T

Ask The Shield for an autograph. The only thing getting signed would be your death warrant.



WCW RUINS EVERYTHING: WWE NETWORK EDITION

With WWE Network, you'll have access to the best (and worst) of WCW. This guide is for the stuff that might make you lose your lunch.



► Road Wild 1998

It's a good thing Jay Leno's debut was at Sturgis, so that the crowd could get away from what they're watching.



► Bash at the Beach 1998

Dennis Rodman and Karl Malone in the NBA Finals? Heck yeah! In a ring? Pretty sure that's a technical foul.



► Halloween Havoc 1995

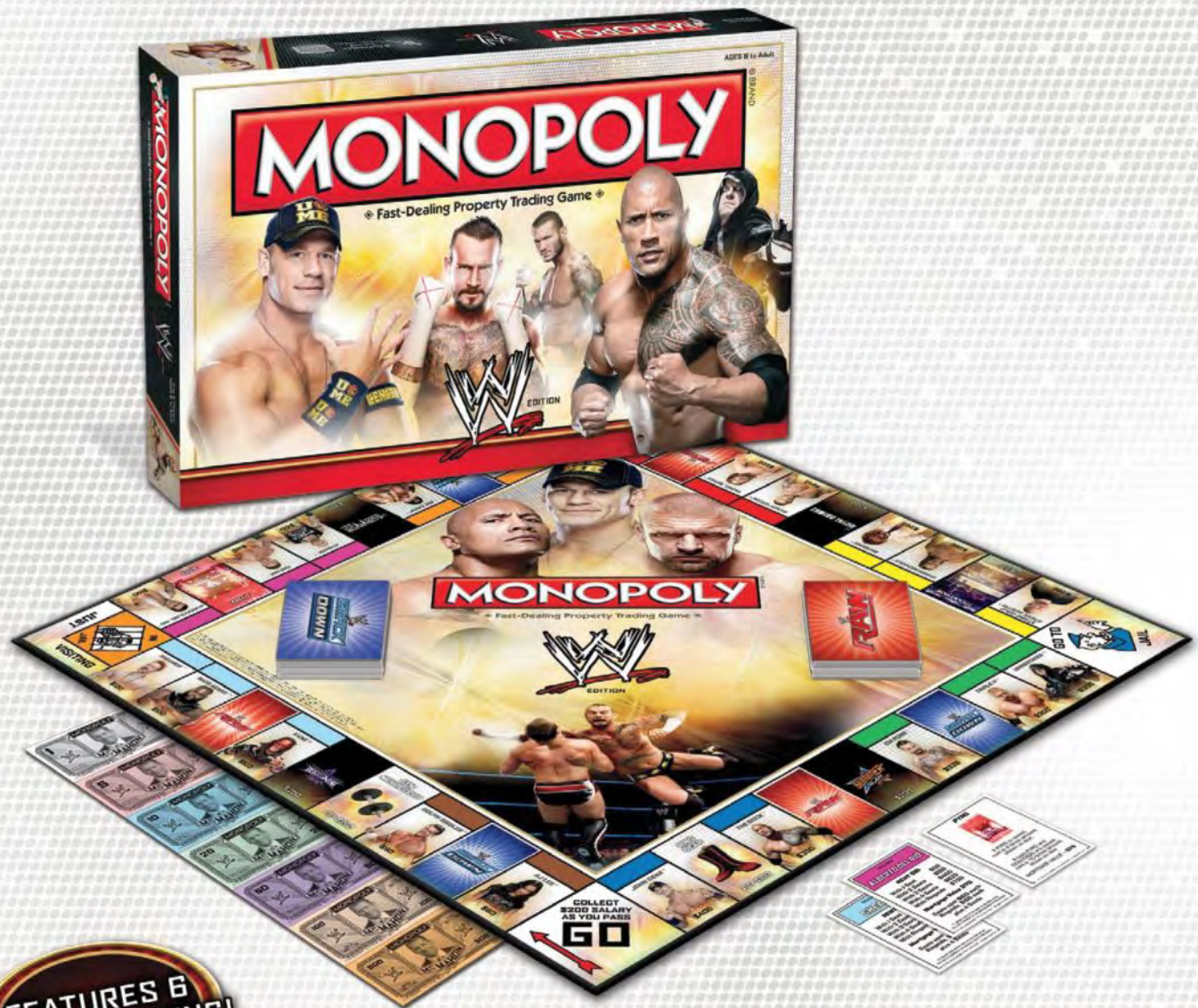
The Monster Truck Sumo Match ended with The Giant falling off the roof. That makes him the lucky one.



► Souled Out 2000

Billy Kidman wrestled "The Wall," which was what WCW fans hit their head against after they watched this.

IT'S PASS GO TIME!



**FEATURES 6
CUSTOM TOKENS!**



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WWE Alternate Realities

Join as us we transcend space and time to explore what might have become of the WWE if we were to alter certain history-making moments in wrestling history.



10

Number of 'Mania matches that Randy Savage contested in a span of 7 years.

WHAT IF?

FACT:

→ At *WrestleMania VII*, The Ultimate Warrior retired the "Macho King" Randy Savage in the first ever 'Mania Career Threatening Match.

BUT SUPPOSE...

→ Randy Savage won the match, and retired The Warrior instead.

ENTER THE NEW ALTERNATE REALITY

→ The Macho King, now at the top of his game, sets his sights on his missing crown, the WWE Championship. He instantly challenges Hulk Hogan to a "Match Made in Hell" at *SummerSlam* for the gold. Savage, with some underhanded tactics wins his WWE Title and spirals into a newfound Madness. Savage begins a slew of sneak attacks on potential number one contenders backstage and during matches and gets protection in the form of his new royal stable: The Legion of Doom.

→ Queen Sherri, Savage's former manager, is dumped by the maniacal champion and she seeks revenge by becoming the manager of Jake "The Snake" Roberts (renaming herself The Serpent Queen!) But Savage, thanks to his royal minions of Animal and Hawk (who swap their red & black for purple and gold) run roughshod over The Snake Man taking him out of action.

→ Meanwhile, The Ultimate Warrior returns to WWE—as the newest member of the WWE announce team! After months of impatiently sitting behind the broadcast table, Sherri begs Warrior to come out of retirement to dethrone the king. A reluctant Warrior dumps the microphone and dons the tassels and face paint yet again to challenge The Madness for the WWE Championship at the *Royal Rumble*.

THE CONSEQUENCES

→ Randy Savage never reunites with the lovely Miss Elizabeth and the duo's infamous feud against Jake "The Snake" Roberts is never seared into our brains. And (thankfully) Savage never gets bitten by a cobra.

→ The Ultimate Warrior, who's known for his intergalactic interviews adds a new layer of excitement and unpredictability to the WWE commentary team.

→ And what of Hulk Hogan and his place in the WWE Title picture? Well, that's another story for another place and time, brother!!!

**Relive The Golden Age, The Modern Era
And All The Attitude In Between**

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT



FOREWORD BY
VINCENT KENNEDY McMAHON

EXPERIENCE WWE HISTORY WITH 50 YEARS
OF UNTOLD STORIES AND STUNNING IMAGERY

IN BOOKSTORES THIS MARCH

Fight At The Museum

Today's Superstars pay tribute to some of the biggest, strangest, and most important items of WWE days past.

A CONVERSATION WITH DIEGO AND FERNANDO ABOUT BRADSHAW'S CATTLE PROD:

Diego: "This was JBL's way back when, right?"

Fernando: "It's a cool little prop. We would definitely love to brand the bull with that—he deserves it. He's driving us crazy on the road, so that's definitely something we'd want to look into."

Diego: "Plus he gets lost a lot, so we want to make sure we take the right bull home."

Fernando: "And not Hornswoggle."

FROM THE ARCHIVIST:

"Justin 'Hawk' Bradshaw drifted into WWE in 1996 accompanied by Uncle Zebekiah (not Colter) and this cattle prod. Several Superstars felt the burn over that span. It's true that he traded in his black hat for a white one when he became JBL, but the nasty Legend underneath never left."

FOR MORE FIGHT AT THE MUSEUM, DOWNLOAD THE **WWE MAGAZINE** APP TODAY!



If you look closely, Road Dogg still has "JB" on his bicep.

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RELATIVITY



NERD LIFE

Xavier Woods realized a childhood dream in 2013 when he finally brought his high-energy style to WWE. In his first *WWE Magazine* interview, he reveals why it's hip to be square, his long-standing, bitter rivalry with Cody Rhodes, and how he's going to keep pushing the definition of what it means to be a Superstar.

by **Jeff Laboon** photography by **Rich Freeda**



What is Xavier Woods all about?

I'm a jack-of-all-trades. I'm a nerd first. I play video games constantly. I've got everything from Nintendo on up the ladder. I am in school getting my PhD currently. I'm obviously obsessed with wrestling. I love it to the maximum. I'm a mix of a guy who loves to wrestle and a nerd on the side—two things that normally don't mix. I know it can be confusing because it's a clash of things, but everybody I've met in the nerd community—which is huge—likes that they have somebody who has the same interests as them currently in WWE.

So what made you want to become a sports-entertainer?

Watching *Raw*, I saw a guy named Flash Funk come out with two girls, dancing and having a blast while doing sweet moves. That's my idol. That was exactly what I wanted to do with my life. I couldn't think of anything better than that. He pushed me in the right direction to where I am now, dancing with The Funkadactyls and wrestling. But everything that I've ever done has been to gain some sort of skill for wrestling. I started wrestling in middle school so I could wrestle later in life. I played football to learn how to do weight training. I did track to learn how to run better and more efficiently. I had really bad stage fright, so I joined the show choir so I could sing and dance in front of people. I was a cheerleader for a little while in college because I wanted to do flips since I'm one of the smaller guys on the roster. So literally everything I've put myself into throughout my life has been to get me to where I am right now.

And you went to the same high school as Buff Bagwell, right?

Yeah...so that happened. I also went to rival high schools with Cody Rhodes. So we've got history dating way back. Our teams hated each other. We actually wrestled against each other, which was interesting. I wrestled up two weight classes to face him, because in my 14-year-old head, I thought, "If I beat Cody Rhodes, then Dusty Rhodes will want to train me to become the best wrestler ever." I got here differently, as you can see.

What were your thoughts when you saw Cody Rhodes making his WWE debut in 2007? You



“Honestly, I’d rather go down swinging my own fist than take the advice of somebody and then not do well.”

were probably still in college at that point, and that had to be inspiring, right?

I was maybe a junior or senior. I started training for wrestling the week after I graduated high school. My parents told me that if I wanted to do it, I had to pay for it. So I got a job at a daycare and used that money to pay my way through wrestling school. I had started and was doing it through college at Furman University. We had class Monday through Friday, so I would find a show on Thursday nights, go to school Friday, wrestle from Friday to Sunday, go back to school Sunday night, and then do tests and projects Monday. So this was constant through all-four years of college. Watching *Raw* and seeing Cody come up, it was like, "OK, this is something I can do. I know him; we're from the same place. This dream isn't as farfetched as it seems looking from the ground up." It was really cool seeing somebody from my childhood actually making it. And it was a big motivation for me. Plus, since we're rivals, it made me think that if he could do it, obviously I could do it way better than he can.

You're an admitted nerd, several times over in fact. Why do you think it's so hip to be a nerd now?

There's a lot of people like me saying it's OK to be a nerd. Everybody has their thing; they might like *Star Wars* or *Star Trek*, anime, comic books, or superhero stuff. With so many more people being brought in to the culture, so many more

people are coming out as nerds. I've met up with rapper Mega Ran, who is the only rapper licensed by Capcom to use their video game music for his beats. He's just a super nerdy guy. We're trying to get a group together of black people who have dealt with being a nerd as a kid and being made fun of, but are now in certain positions in their fields. It will be called "Nerdy People of Color." It's going to be a thing for all young black kids to show that it's OK to be a nerd. Embrace it; it's your life, live it. Hopefully that kicks off soon.

How does a young Superstar make an immediate name for his or her self?

Do something really intense and have some good showings so guys start respecting you. If you take your time to get your feet wet and walk on eggshells, it's not going to work. You've just got to be yourself. Essentially, throw your own punches. Honestly, I'd rather go down swinging my own fist than take the advice of somebody and then not do well. So be yourself around everybody and don't be scared to speak your mind. 🍌



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>BRAWL

Red, White & Blue Superstars!

Captain America (new movie out April 4th!) proves that you can still look “super” in some red, white & blue, like these Superstars and Divas. Take a patriotic look!



NXT SUPERSTAR OR MARVEL ALIAS?

Can you separate the Superstar from the Superhero?

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Scott Dawson | 5. Colin Cassady | 9. Baron Corbin |
| 2. Alex Summers | 6. Tyler Breeze | 10. Norrin Radd |
| 3. Bobby Drake | 7. Eric Masterson | 11. Aiden English |
| 4. Brian Braddock | 8. CJ Parker | 12. Cain Marko |



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FILTER THIS!

With The Four Horsemen in your Instagram feed, get ready for a lot of sepia-toned limousine riding and jet flying.



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The Headquarters

2d



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DiamondsR4Eva Dusty won't know what hit him #woooooo

Like Comment



@DiamondsR4Eva
On set

31w



DiamondsR4Eva how many jets we got?

Like Comment



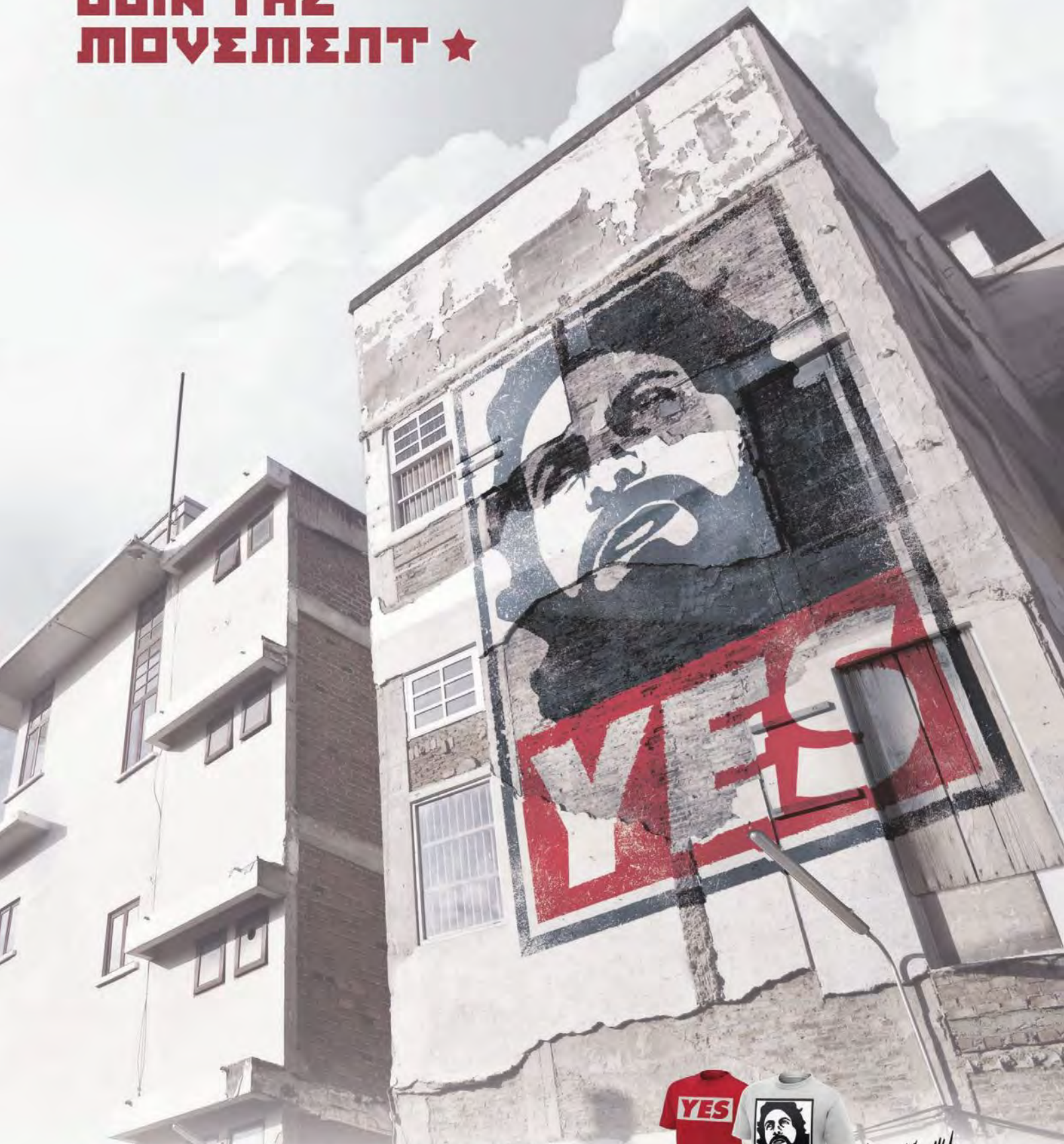
@DiamondsR4Eva
Backstage

74w



Answers: 1.NXT, 2.Marvel, 3.Marvel, 4.Marvel, 5.NXT, 6.NXT, 7.Marvel, 8.NXT, 9.NXT, 10.Marvel, 11.NXT, 12.Marvel

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MOVEMENT ★**



WWE UNIVERSE, UNITE! Get Daniel Bryan's
official YES Movement line at wweshop.com.

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Play Ball! WWE's All-Superstar Squad

A barbed-wire baseball would never fly on the diamond, which is probably why there aren't many WWE Superstars in the big leagues. But if there were, this is what we think it'd look like if we fielded a team of only wrestlers. Imagine Mr. Burns's All-Stars, just with a lot more punching (and maybe the same amount of gigantism).

1

STARTING PITCHER

Daniel Bryan

Bryan burst into WWE with the intensity of a flame-thrower, and over time, just as a veteran pitcher who's lost a little off his fastball, he's learned to throw a little "junk" too. Able to take on anyone, he's exactly what you look for in an "Ace."

★ ★ ★ 10-TIME SLAMMY WINNER ★ ★ ★

With better chops (and kicks) than the rest of the roster, Daniel Bryan's nickname, "The Goat," isn't about looks and more about being the greatest of all time.

2

CATCHER

Bray Wyatt

A catcher needs the confidence of a general, and we see no better WWE foil than Wyatt Patriarch, Bray Wyatt. Always in control, Bray is the steady hand behind the plate. And his great big beard already makes him a perfect fit for the World Champion Boston Red Sox.



3

FIRST BASE

Ryback

Ryback's strength will give him the long ball power we expect from big-league first basemen. Also, any runner who manages to get on first base will think twice before trying to steal second when the guy holding you on the bag can keep you there with a giant Meat Hook clothesline.



4

SECOND BASE

Cody Rhodes

The non-painted half of The Brotherhood does just about everything well. Plus, when you take a closer look at how effortlessly he bounces off the ropes for his Disaster Kick, it's clear Rhodes has the nifty footwork necessary to turn those double plays at the second base.



5

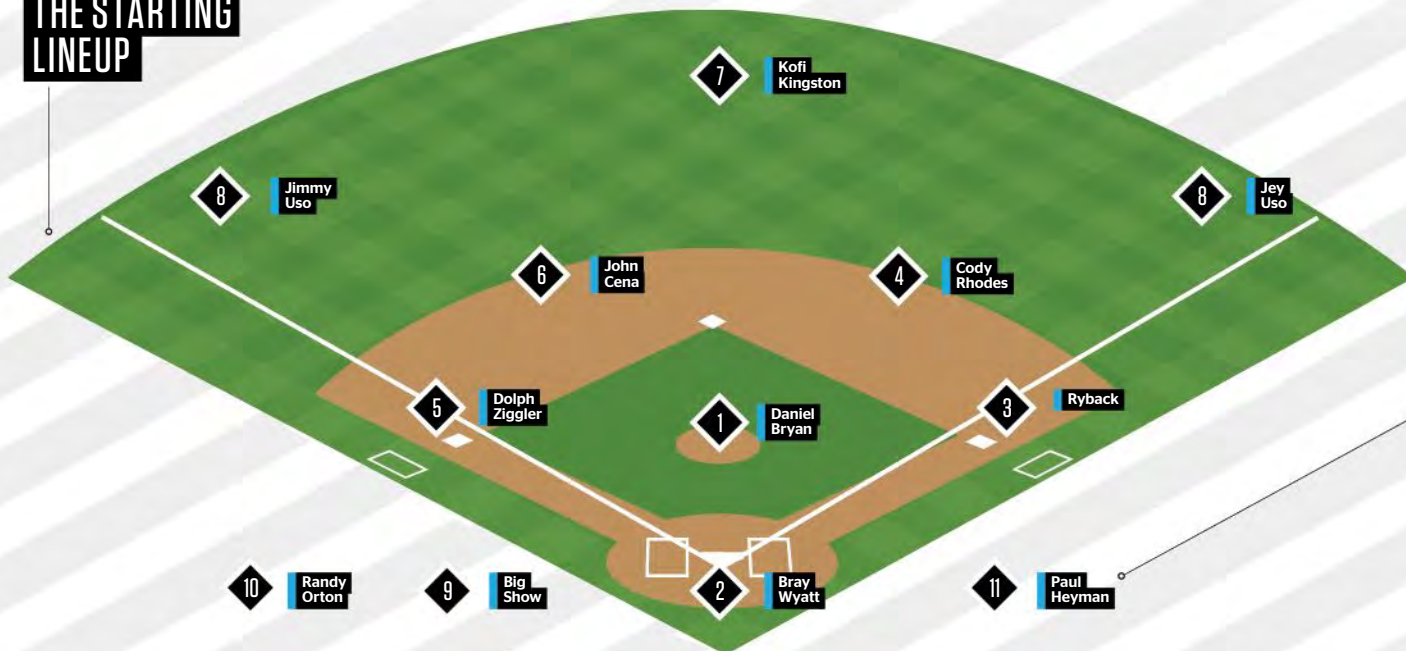
THIRD BASE

Dolph Ziggler

Who else is more capable of playing the hot corner than the "Showoff" Dolph Ziggler? Never afraid of stealing the show, expect Ziggler to show flashes of leather in the infield with his athletic ability. Just don't expect Dolph to show much sportsmanship, though.



THE STARTING LINEUP





6 **SHORTSTOP** *John Cena*

There's no one better to lead the infield than the face of WWE, John Cena. With his never-give-up attitude, John Cena is the Derek Jeter of the ring. Cena will keep the team motivated and ready to play every time they step out on the field.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 14-TIME WORLD CHAMPION ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
In addition to a bark just as bad as his bite, John Cena is a two-time Rumble winner, WrestleMania mainstay and a 2012 Money In The Bank victor.

7

CENTER FIELD *Kofi Kingston*

With speed, agility and ups, Kofi Kingston is the perfect center fielder. No homers will ever be a sure thing with him patrolling the outfield. Kingston is also a great pick for a leadoff hitter, as he will be able to catch defenses by surprise with his speed when he lays down a bunt.



8

CORNER OUTFIELDS *The Usos*

The corner outfield positions are underrated, and the Usos are the suitable tandem to fill those two positions. Communication is key to any good outfield, and it's said that twins (identical, not Minnesotan) have their own special language. Jimmy and Jey will be just fine.



9

DESIGNATED HITTER *Big Show*

Standing in at seven feet tall and 425 lbs., it won't take much more than the flick of a bat for Big Show to hit homers. But that size creates an even bigger strike zone. We suspect his slugging percentage numbers will still be enough to satisfy those Sabermetric statheads.



10

CLOSER *Randy Orton*

Often temperamental in their personality, the closer's role is to end the game quickly and decisively. That sounds exactly like what The Viper does every time he hits an RKO for a successful WWE World Heavyweight Title defense.



11

MANAGER *Paul Heyman*

Debate all you want about the man's methods but it's hard to argue with Heyman's success as a manager. No one said you have to like the guy, but recognize that he will certainly do whatever it takes to make sure his players win.



HOME FIELD

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BRAWL GAME

A look back at the times when WWE took over the diamond, giving a whole new meaning to the "baseball slide."



Sammartino Snaps - 6/28/69

► **FENWAY PARK**

Bruno Sammartino and Killer Kowalski were wrestling's Red Sox and Yankees so it fits that they once fought in front of the Green Monster.



Showdown at Shea - 9/30/72

► **SHEA STADIUM**

Extra innings, pssh! This night saw Bruno Sammartino fight Pedro Morales for more than hour until the match ended by curfew.



Macho At The Bat - 7/14/91

► **BUSCH STADIUM**

Randy Savage never got to play pro ball, but he did get to ump for the *'Mania VII* rematch between Hulk Hogan and Sgt. Slaughter here.



The Great One Conquers - 3/30/03

► **SAFECO FIELD**

The Rock finally bested Stone Cold Steve Austin at *WrestleMania XIX*, and all it took was three Rock Bottoms to put down The Rattlesnake.

Where readers sound off on the good, the bad and the ugly in WWE. And we give you awesome swag for it!

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Dear *WWE Magazine*,

Congratulations to Curtis Axel on being the first two-time winner of the Vince Lombardi, ahem, McMahon Trophy! How does Axel feel about being the first double *WWE Magazine* Fantasy Football winner in history?

Derek P., Dallas, TX

We were sure the sweetest part was winning twice before The Miz did, and we were right.

I, Curtis Axel, accept being the winner that I am, being #BetterThanPerfect and being a 2-time *WWE Magazine* Fantasy Football Champion! I'd also like to thank this year's competitors for being so lousy. Thanks to Miz for so much effort. He looks good in 5th place! Better luck next year, everyone. Man... I look good being a Champion!



HAVE A QUESTION
FOR A SUPERSTAR?
LET US KNOW!

Dear Tyson Kidd,

My wife was just hired at a company I've been working at for years. Any advice on how to make it a smooth transition for us? **RANDY P.; MIAMI, FL**

“There is one saying that I live by, and it’s called: Happy Wife, Happy Life. It’s advice that works at whatever place you work.”



THE ANIMAL VS. THE GOAT!

Dear WWE Magazine,
One of Batista's last matches in WWE before his return was against a young "Rookie" named Daniel Bryan. Big Dave has come a long way since then and the "Yes Movement" is huge. Let's get a re-match!
Humphrev V.: Atlanta, GA



You may not be the only one. Batista had nothing but praise for the GOAT...

"I have a lot of respect for him. He deserves what he's got coming to him. He's been around for years, a lot longer than most people think. He's always been working hard and paying his dues even outside the company."

BIZARRE BROTHERS!

Dear *WWE Magazine*,
After reading Goldust's interview last month, I was shocked at how much gold face paint he goes through. And who can forget Cody's brown paper bags! Strange family, don't you think?

Marist L.; Juneau, AK

"As Dad puts it, he raised some weird kids. There's definitely something unique about all of us, so when dealing with us, all I can say is...be prepared!"
—Goldust



ARTISTS' CORNER

FAN ART OF THE MONTH

We're always seeking unique drawings of the Superstars. Send your work our way!

Email **MAGAZINE@WWE.COM** and we just might publish your doodles! This month, we're giving away a copy of *Royal Rumble 2014* on DVD. See Page 74 for more information!



*** KIMMY K., via email ***



J. GREGORY, via email

ON WWE.COM

'Mania gets interactive and
WWE's very first podcast!



First, hear Shawn Michaels, Edge and other Superstars and Legends open up about The Showcase of the Immortals in WWE's first-ever podcast "30 Years of *WrestleMania*!" Then explore The Show of Show's amazing legacy in the new and immersive history timeline!

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By **MAX BAKKE** Routine by **ROB SULAVER** Photography by **MARIUS BUGGE**



Weighted Crunches

Three sets of 10-12 reps

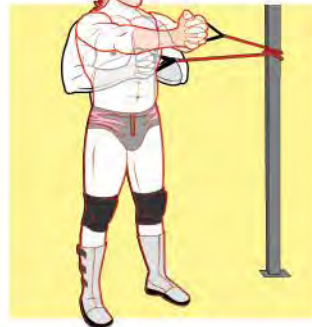
Lie in a crunch position with knees bent and a weight held either in front of your chest. Perform a crunch by contracting your core to lift your torso from the floor. Reverse the motion until your shoulder blades make contact with floor.



Kettlebell Russian Twist

Three sets of 40 reps

In the same crunch position, grab a kettlebell at the handle with both hands. Lean back and tighten your core, then touch the bell of the weight to the floor behind you. Now, rotate the weight across your body to the other side.



Pallof Press

Three sets of 12 reps

Attach a D-handle to a cable pulley and hold it in front of your sternum. To begin, keep your shoulders square to the machine and press the cable straight out in front of you. Hold for two seconds, then slowly bring the cable back.



Hanging Shin-to-Bar

Three sets of 10-12 reps

Begin in a hanging position on a pull-up bar. Next, contract your core and bring your feet up as high as they go. Try to touch your shins to the bar. Then, reverse the motion by slowly bringing your feet back down to the start.

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\$30, herschelsupply.com



For a challenge, try leg raises with a weight held between your feet.



"If you treat abs like your arms, eventually they'll pop."
—DOLPH ZIGGLER

Digestion: We Break It Down

Proper metabolism is imperative for the body to energize, grow and repair itself. Bad News Barrett gives us the scoop on how all the foods you eat—good and not so good—make it through your body.

1. MOUTH WATERING!

Digestion starts the moment you smell, see, or think about a delicious meal! The body starts to prepare itself by forming and accumulating saliva inside the mouth.

The Bad News: Ever heard the phrase: your eyes are bigger than your stomach? The average American overeats 500 to 1500 calories every day!

2. FIRST BITE!

Once the food's inside, the saliva starts breaking down its chemicals, making it easier to swallow. Your teeth help this process, and the tongue brings it to the back of the throat.

The Bad News: A small sugary treat's residue can stick to your teeth for days, no matter how much you brush.

3. ON THE WAY DOWN!

The broken down food will then move down the esophagus, which is a 10-inch long stretchy organ that will then empty into your stomach.

The Bad News: Be wary of foods that cause you heartburn. The fiery sensation that grips your chest is actually an eroding acid traveling up your esophagus!

4. IN THE STOMACH!

The stomach's first job is to store all your swallowed bits of food. Food will stay in the stomach for varied amounts of time, depending on how long it takes ones body to start breaking it down.

The Bad News: Excessive over-eating will irrevocably rupture the stomach and destroy its muscles.



10. LARGE INTESTINE!

After leaving the small intestine, and all nutrients are removed, the rest of waste travels through here and goes out with a flush!

The Bad News: The large intestine sees so much bacteria and waste, so staying hydrated is one easy way to keep things...moving.

9. GALLBLADDER!

The gallbladder's job is to store all bile it gets from the liver, and then extract it as needed throughout the time the food is in the small intestine. Bile is for digestion and absorption of fats!

The Bad News: Gallstones can be painful! Ward them off by learning about foods that keep the gallbladder healthy like oranges and high-fiber foods.

8. LOVE YOUR LIVER!

The liver creates a juice called bile to help all fats make their way into the bloodstream. It also processes nutrient rich blood and filters out harmful wastes.

The Bad News: Over abuse of alcohol destroys your liver from the inside out! It causes toxic bacteria in your gut, and is responsible for 40% of liver deaths!

7. POWERFUL PANCREAS!

While the food is in the small intestine, the pancreas does its part by sending juices there to assist the body as it "digests" all fats and protein.

The Bad News: When the pancreas is damaged, it causes diabetes. Make sure to get the proper amount of vegetables in your meals to protect it!

5. METABOLIZE!

The stomach will eventually start to mix together all pieces of food, turning it into a liquid mixture. This breakdown is done with help from the stomach muscles and the gastric juices that help kill all bacteria.

The Bad News: Do you skip meals? That will affect the metabolic process, which in turn affects your health.

6. TO THE SMALL INTESTINE!

At an average of 22 feet, the small intestine isn't small, and has a huge job. Food can spend up to 4 hours there as the body works to absorb all minerals, nutrients, and vitamins into the bloodstream.

The Bad News: If you have dietary restrictions—you need to stay the course—because it's the SI that can't handle it!



Ask Mark Henry...

Armed with a fresh new look, *The World's Strongest Man* tells us about his recent weight loss, his biggest fears, and which Superstar he's always up to go one-on-one with.

By KAYLA PARENT

@ What is the worst series of movies out there?

✦ **Hammond F.; Raleigh, NC**

The *Final Destination* series. That movie was done at one and now they're on like six or something, when it's the same storyline for every movie! Geez I hate that series! I get so annoyed whenever I see a commercial for the next one.

@ What lifestyle or diet change would you attribute most to your recent weight loss?

✦ **Jerrold L.; Flint, MI**

The management here was really pulling for me to drop some pounds for my health. So I cut back on carbohydrates and started doing a lot more cardio than I used to. I'm into the elliptical now, and the stationary bike. It was a combination of both those things.

@ Who is one Superstar that you're never tired of competing against?

✦ **Anthony D.; Dayton, OH**

I would have to say Sheamus. Every match that we've ever had against each other was well above average. One that sticks out in my mind was *SummerSlam 2011*.

That match is definitely one of the best in both of our careers.

@ If Batista is Drax the Destroyer, which superhero would you be?

✦ **Mark V.; Austin, TX**

C'mon look at me, I'd be The Hulk. No two ways about that. He has limitless strength— and I'm The World's Strongest Man. His backstory is interesting, too, so he'd be a fun character to play on the big screen.

@ How do you feel about people taking pictures of their food?

✦ **Frank E.; Topeka, KS**

Hell I'm one of them! I don't see anything wrong with that. When I'm having a delicious meal, I like to share it with my followers. And I like getting people a little bit jealous, too.

@ Was there a positive reaction to your bald head? How do you feel about the new hairstyle now?

✦ **Lacey P.; Memphis, TN**

Everybody loves it. I got so many sincere compliments from the people in my life and my fans. I would never ever go back

to my old look. This feels right for me, so the bald head is here to stay.

@ Is Mark Henry afraid of anything?

✦ **Mike O.; Albany, NY**

Spiders and needles! I have to get blood tests every six months, and the process just never gets easier. It's not a pretty sight or fun experience for the doctor. And no, I'm not ashamed to admit that a big man like me is afraid of spiders. They're nasty!

@ Would you ever support a child of yours becoming a WWE Superstar?

✦ **Hilda W.; Norfolk, VA**

Of course I would. But I would also try and prepare them for the reality of it. The first thing I would say is: It might look easy. It might look fun—and it is—but it's also one of the hardest jobs in the world.

@ What Superstar's theme song is the most sung backstage?

✦ **Joshua Q.; Nashua, NH**

Big Show's, most out of everyone, definitely. "Welllll, it's the Big Show!" can be heard a lot backstage, even when he's not in the immediate area. He takes it in stride, which is cool.

WWE TV! / The Superstars and Divas get geared up for WWE Network!



@nicoleandbrie
Beyond excited for the #WWENetwork. Honored to be in Vegas right now! This is amazing!



@CodyRhodesWWE
Let me sum-up this entire press conference...\$9.99 WOW. Legit such a good thing for the talent and most importantly the audience.



@ZackRyder
The @WWENetwork is going to change everything. #Raw



@BigELangston
@RealSummerWWE. I pitched a Freak Friday-esque @WWENetwork series for us. Potential Title: I Cha-Cha-Changed Into a Man.



@WadeBarrett
Tried hard to figure out some bad news from this #WWENetwork announcement. Want to sponsor my podium @WWENetwork?



@AntonioCesaro
The #WWENetwork #4ThePeople #WeThePeople @wwe



GOT A BURNING QUESTION?

In the coming months we'll solicit Twitter questions for Bad News Barrett and Xavier Woods. Fire off your best queries to: **@WWE**magazine. If your questions are interesting enough, one of them just might make it into *WWE Magazine*! And you thought the Web was just for Flappy Bird.



Lady Law!



New Broadcaster **RENEE YOUNG** talks about fellow Canadian Superstar The Mountie and what she misses most about The Great White North.

By **KAYLA PARENT** Photography by **MARIUS BUGGE**

1. Be honest, have you ever impersonated a law enforcement officer?

I haven't! Impersonating a Mountie in Canada is no joke, so it really wouldn't be the smartest thing to do.

2. Well, what's the worst law you've ever broken?

A lot of times I drive without shoes on. It's illegal I know and I'm sorry, I'm so much more comfortable that way!

3. If you ended up getting caught, who would be your one phone call?

Summer Rae. I feel like she would be able to help me talk my way out of trouble in any situation. We're kind of like Thelma and Louise.

4. Was The Mountie popular in Canada while you were growing up?

Of course—The Mountie is one of our most creative and memorable Superstars! But there are so many amazing Superstars that we Canadians can take credit for.

5. So are there any Canadian stereotypes that you totally fall into?

YES! I say "eh" a lot! But I mean it's almost like: "Hey," which is a West Coast thing. I'm not from the West Coast, but it's still something that stuck with me, eh?

6. What do we have to do to get you in the ring?

Summer and I have this whole plan. We're going to have our *WrestleMania* moment,

and it's going to consist of me dropkicking her. She's agreed to it, and now I just have to get everyone else on board.

7. What is one thing that no one would expect about Renee Young?

I played a lot of competitive sports growing up. I used to be a gymnast, play soccer, run track, and participate in the high jump. I love being active and staying in the best shape possible.

8. Did a young Renee Young ever imagine she would be working at WWE?

The thing is, since I was so sporty growing up, no one would have expected me to be behind a microphone instead of in the action. I love that WWE is a perfect mix of entertainment and athleticism.

9. With your new travel schedule, what is one thing you really miss from home?

Tim Hortons, which is like your Dunkin' Donuts but so much better. Their steep tea is to die for and they have the best sandwiches. Luckily there are some in New York!

APRIL IN WWE / Check where your favorite Superstars will be this month...

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Ultimate Warrior DVD on sale today!	2	3 WRESTLEMANIA AXXESS	4 WRESTLEMANIA AXXESS	5 WRESTLEMANIA AXXESS HALL OF FAME
6 WRESTLEMANIA XXX New Orleans, LA 6:30pm	7 RAW New Orleans, LA 6:30pm	8 SMACKDOWN Lafayette, LA 7:00pm	9	10	11	12 WWE Live Event Hidalgo, Texas 7:30pm
13 WWE Live Event Chattanooga, TN 5:00pm	14 RAW Birmingham, AL 6:30pm	15 SMACKDOWN Nashville, TN 7:00pm	16	17 WWE Live Event Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	18 WWE Live Event Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	19 WWE Live Event Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
20 EASTER	21 RAW Baltimore, MD 7:30pm	22 SMACKDOWN Hershey, PA 7:00pm <i>Best of Raw</i> on DVD	23	24	25 WWE Live Event Toronto, CAN 7:30pm	26 WWE Live Event Louisville, KY 7:30pm
27 WWE Live Event Evansville, IN 5:00pm	28 RAW St. Louis, MO 6:30pm	29 SMACKDOWN Kansas City, MO 7:00pm	30	 For more of the delightful Renee Young visit wwe.com/magazine/diva-of-month to see exclusive photos!		



Since I was so sporty growing up, no one would have expected me behind a microphone, instead of in the action.

RENEE YOUNG



WrestleMania's Historic Opening Matches!

Not all Superstars have the energy and dynamism to kick off The Biggest PPV of the year! Here we've got 10 questions about nearly 30 years of opening acts, so make sure you get off to a good start! Pencils up!

1

The Grandest Stage of Them All often sees eager teams with their eyes on the Tag Team Titles! Can you match the winning duos to their respective *WrestleManias*?



SHOMIZ



THE HEADBANGERS



HAWK & ANIMAL



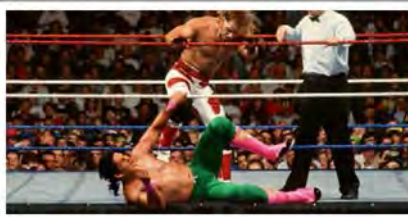
BIG SHOW & KANE



2

Which of these former World Champions never appeared in a *WrestleMania* opening bout?

- A** Kane
- B** Chris Jericho
- C** John Cena
- D** The Rock



3

Shawn Michaels appeared in three consecutive opening matches at which *WrestleManias*?

- A** V, VI, VII
- B** VII, VIII, IX
- C** IX, X, XI
- D** X, XI, XII

4

True or False: The 25th Anniv. of *WM* saw Mr. Kennedy win Money in the Bank in the opening bout.



?



5 **Who Am I?** The last match of my career was a World Title defense in the opening match at *WrestleMania XXVII*.

?



9 Which country star was greeted by Tito Santana when he made his way to the ring at *WrestleMania VIII*?

- A** Reba McEntire
- B** Shania Twain
- C** Dolly Parton
- D** Kenny Rogers

6 **Fill in the blanks:** At *WMIV*, _____ defeated, _____ Superstars in a _____, last eliminating _____.

- A**
- B**
- C**
- D**

7 Bret Hart wrestled Owen Hart in the opening match at *WMX*. They had a re-match at what WWE PPV event?

- A** *King Of The Ring*
- B** *SummerSlam*
- C** *Survivor Series*
- D** *In Your House*

8 **Unscramble Me:** Who is the only Superstar to compete for the I-C Championship at two opening *'Mania* bouts in a row?

IMLAWLI GRAEL

?

10 How did the exciting and unforgettable opening match at *WrestleMania 21* come to an end?



- A** Rey Mysterio Hurricanrana
- B** Eddie Guerrero Frog splash
- C** Rey Mysterio 619
- D** Eddie Guerrero Lasso From El Paso

TIME'S UP! / Match your answers below to see where you rank in terms of WWE intelligence.

0 - 2



LOCAL COMPETITOR

3 - 4



NXT ROOKIE

5 - 7



TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS

8 - 9



UNITED STATES CHAMPION

10



WWE WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION

1. A. SHOMIZ. WMXXIV. THE HEADBANGERS. WM13. BIG SHOW & KANE. WM22. 2. D. 3. B. 4. FALSE. CM PUNK WON AT THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF WRESTLEMANIA. 5. EDGE. 6. A. BAD NEWS BROWN. B. 19. C. BATTLER ROYAL. D. BRET HART. 7. B. WILLIAM REGAL. 8. A. 10. A.



Mercedes-Benz Superdome

30

WrestleMania XXX

MYSTERIES!

Thanks to its legacy built on 30 years of the finest action and competition imaginable, *WrestleMania* became the most anticipated night on everyone's calendar. As The Show of Show looms, dive into these 30 questions that demand to be answered on The Grandest Stage of Them All.

BY JEFF LABOON DIGITAL IMAGING BY ERIC HEINTZ





1 Will Daniel Bryan finally become the "Face of WWE"?

The Authority continues to hold Daniel Bryan back, but The Goat looks poised to steal the spotlight on The Grandest Stage of Them All. Last year, he overcame the horrible memories of his 18-second Show of Shows debut to score his first victory. This year, he looks to grab his most important win in WWE yet.

2 What errands will we forget to do because we watched WWE Network nonstop before the show?

Who needs to take out the trash or stock up on paper towels when you can just watch 29 *WrestleManias* back-to-back-to-back-to-well you get the drift? Call out of work and cancel your weekend plans, because you have a lot of *WrestleManias* to watch before April 6.



3 How will John Cena make his grand entrance on The Grandest Stage?

The Champ drove a Mustang through a glass window. He's run through a crowd of clones. He's even had a choir sing him to ringside. John Cena loves to leave his mark on *WrestleMania* before even stepping into the ring. We can't wait to see how he's going to announce that "The Champ is here!" at such a landmark *WrestleMania*.



What will the stage look like?

The WWE production crew turned MetLife Stadium into a mini-New York City last year and they have a history of topping themselves. Expect thousands of bright lights, crazy pyrotechnics, and plenty of Bayou tributes as the team makes the Superdome set the greatest in history.

5 How will Bad News Barrett try to ruin *WrestleMania*?

Bad News Barrett could ruin Mardi Gras, so don't be surprised if he wrecks The Show of Shows with his trademark blues. Keep him away from a mic unless you want *WrestleMania* to become the biggest bummer of the year.



Who will get a live performance of their entrance theme?

Even entrance themes take on a whole new life at 'Mania, with live performances by the likes of Motörhead and Salt-N-Pepa. It's not often you can hear Living Colour and see a Tombstone Piledriver in the same night.

7 Will the roof come off New Orleans Arena when Ultimate Warrior enters for the Hall of Fame?

Ultimate Warrior hasn't run around a WWE event since 1996, but that's about to change on April 5 when his face-painted fury returns. This ovation has been building for 18 years, so expect it to reach epic status.



30 UNDERRATED WRESTLEMANIA MATCHES!

WrestleMania

Andre The Giant v. Big John Studd
Giants battled over \$15,000 in a mega matchup.

WrestleMania 2

Jake Roberts v. George Wells
Wells hurled after meeting Roberts's snake.

WrestleMania III

Harts v. Bulldogs
Classic tag team chemistry.



WrestleMania IV

Rick Rude & Jake Roberts fight to a 15:00 time-limit draw Perfectly matched foes.

WrestleMania V

The Brain Busters vs. Strike Force
Rick Martel left Tito Santana hanging.

WrestleMania VI

Demolition vs. Colossal Connection
"The Brain" got beat.





8 Will The Shield make it to *WrestleMania* as a cohesive unit?

It's been a rough couple of months for The Shield, as rumors of dissension run rampant. Dean Ambrose insists the group is tight, but constant in-fighting may hint otherwise.

9 What Superstar will feel the shocking wrath of a celebrity guest?

Celebs play a crucial role in *WrestleMania*'s history, but some of the brasher Superstars earn the ire of these special guests, like when Mickey Rourke KO'd Chris Jericho. If Fandango could meet NOLA's Richard Simmons, that'd be a dream come true for us.

10 Who will dominate the AXXESS video game challenge?

The competition starts even before *WrestleMania* as Superstars and Divas battle in a *WWE2K14* tourney at AXXESS. With gamers like reigning champ AJ Lee and Xavier Woods in the field, this year's challenge should be the most heated ever.



11 How long will it take for Undertaker to bury his opponent this year?

The Deadman's first win on The Grandest Stage of Them All came in only four minutes. The likes of Shawn Michaels and Triple H have pushed him to half-hour battles in recent years, but that doesn't mean he's gone soft.



12 Which newcomer is most likely to make his or her *WrestleMania* debut?

Plenty of Superstars look to contest their first *WrestleMania* match this year, from The Wyatt Family to Los Matadores to Xavier Woods to Damien Sandow to Sin Cara. With spots at The Show of Shows so highly coveted, these Superstars will be battling for their opportunity to become immortal in New Orleans. Smart money rests on Damien Sandow because, well, he's very smart.



13 Will The Miz continue his *WrestleMania* undefeated streak?

We all know plenty about *WrestleMania*'s most important Streak, Undertaker's 21-0 mark. But The Miz would argue that it's actually The Show of Shows' developing streak that should have everyone's attention. With two tag-team victories and wins over John Cena and Bad News Barrett, The Awesome One sits only 17 wins away from matching The Deadman's record. Baby steps, Miz, baby steps.



Will Big E, Ryback, or Fandango hit a slump?

WrestleMania launches careers

(and crowd chants), but not everyone is lucky enough to step onto The Grandest Stage more than once. Last year's *WrestleMania* rookies don't want to join the 45 Superstars who've only competed at one Show of Shows.



15 Who will have the most imaginative, memorable, new ring gear?

It's only fitting to dress to the nines at *WrestleMania*. Superstars like Dolph Ziggler, Cody Rhodes, and Rey Mysterio set new standards for style at every Show of Shows, and with this being a landmark one, their creative juices will be at full blast.

WrestleMania VII
Undertaker vs. Jimmy Snuka
The Streak kicked off against Snuka.

WrestleMania VIII
Hart vs. Piper
Hot Rod faced a moral dilemma.



WrestleMania IX
Steiner Bros. vs. Headshrinkers
These duos brawled in bruising tag action.

WrestleMania X
Randy Savage vs. Crush
Savage's pulley knowledge came up huge.

WrestleMania XI
Bret Hart vs. Bob Backlund
Who quit?



WrestleMania XII
Stone Cold vs. Savio Vega
The Stone Cold era began against Vega.

WrestleMania 13
Rocky Maivia vs. The Sultan
Rocky and his father fought off a dirty attack.

WrestleMania XIV
Taka Michinoku vs. Aguila
A high-flying clinic from the opening match.

#16

What will be the best chant in the Superdome?

The biggest event of the year warrants the best from the crowd, so don't be surprised at the ridiculously catchy cheers the WWE Universe comes up with in New Orleans.

17 Will The Authority have a heavy hand in the outcome?

Don't get in Triple H or Stephanie McMahon's face—because what's "best for business" might mean you losing at *WrestleMania*.



18 Can Randy Orton overcome his paranoia to defy the odds?

With challengers stepping up every week, *The Viper* continues to look over his shoulder. But as the first *WWE World Heavyweight Champion*, Orton has to start acting more confident if he wants his reign to last until April 7.



19 What will be the most ridiculous thing a Superstar lifts?

Like John Cena hoisting Big Show and Edge simultaneously or Hulk Hogan lifting Andre, *WrestleMania* offers feats of strength that would put Hercules (the demi-god not the WWE Superstar with the chains) to shame.



20 Will there be any special stipulation matches on the card this year?

Ladder Matches, Steel Cages and Hell In A Cells already push the limit, but at *WrestleMania*, they can become even grander playgrounds for WWE's most vicious and ambitious action. Even with *WrestleMania*'s stipulation history, we've never seen a Strap Match on The Grandest Stage. Time to fix that.



21 Will Brock Lesnar score his first 'Mania win in more than a decade?

Maybe it's the curse of the Shooting Star Press? Brock Lesnar went for broke at *WrestleMania XIX* with that particular high flying maneuver, and that was the last time The Next Big Thing stood tall at *WrestleMania*.

22 Who'll steal a finisher?

John Cena dropped The Rock with the Rock Bottom en route to a win, so it's clear that a li'l attitude can go a long way, and stealing your opponent's finisher is the boldest way to do it.

23 Who has the home-field advantage in the Superdome?

No one on the roster hails from New Orleans, but Mark Henry was raised only four hours west of the Superdome. Kofi Kingston has the best chance of making NOLA his home crowd, though, as he leads the locker room with five victories in the city.

WrestleMania XV

Mankind vs. Big Show
A clash of brawlers.



WrestleMania 2000

Edge & Christian vs. Dudley Boys vs. Hardy Boys
This revolutionized ladder bouts.

WrestleMania X-Seven

Undertaker vs. Triple H
The first was as good as the second or third.

WrestleMania X8

Stone Cold vs. Scott Hall
Austin hit a Stunner so hard that Hall flew.

WrestleMania XIX

Trish Stratus vs. Victoria vs. Jazz
Trish kicked her way to victory and a title.

WrestleMania XX

John Cena vs. Big Show
The Champ's first gold.



WrestleMania 21

Kurt Angle vs. Shawn Michaels
Two legends put on a wrestling classic.

WrestleMania 22

Edge vs. Cactus Jack
Flaming table. Nuff said.





24 How worried should we be about The Wyatts?

They've torn down everything in their path since making a July 2013 debut, so it only seems logical that they'll set their sights on WWE's 30-year institution next. It doesn't matter who Bray Wyatt makes his next target, because as he's shown against the likes of Kane and Daniel Bryan on major stages, nothing will stop The Eater of Worlds from spreading his chaos.



25 Will the Divas Championship be defended on The Grandest Stage?

After two years of standing in a losing corner at *WrestleMania*, AJ Lee aims to become the first Diva to retain the title at The Show of Shows since Melina at *WrestleMania 23*.

26 Will Sheamus break his record-setting victory?

The Celtic Warrior only needed 18 seconds to score his first *WrestleMania* victory. As he hunts for win No. 2, his opponent better watch out for a sudden Brogue Kick—unless he wants to become a dubious record-holder.



27 What Superstar has the skills to steal the show this year?

Everyone wants to leave the WWE Universe breathless at *WM*, be it flying in on a zipline or spearing Jeff Hardy off a ladder. We can't wait to see what moments become highlight-reel-worthy next.

28 Will sour memories from his last 'Mania hold back Batista?

The Animal left *WrestleMania XXVI* (and WWE soon after) with a whimper thanks to a defeat by John Cena. If his 2014 Royal Rumble Match victory is any indication, though, Batista wants to put that painful Show of Shows loss behind him and claim the prize he came back for: the WWE World Heavyweight Championship.



29 Will Papa Shango work his voodoo in the Big Easy?

Always be weary of voodoo, but especially at *WrestleMania XXX*, where New Orleans's own Papa Shango could unleash his brand of terror with relative ease. Remember when he made Ultimate Warrior vomit and spew black bile from his pores? That was grossssssssss!



What will *Raw* be like the night after?

It's the year's craziest three hours of TV—there was a “Michael Cole!” chant last year. ...The night after *WM* always sparks eras and ends other legendary ones, so we can't wait to see what's in store for 2014.

WrestleMania 23
Undertaker vs. Batista
Two Batista Bombs couldn't stop The Streak.

WrestleMania XXIV
MITB Ladder Match
Ladders, ladders, and ladders oh my!

25th Anniv of 'Mania
Chris Jericho vs. Roddy Piper, Ricky Steamboat and Jimmy Snuka
Got Legends?

WrestleMania XXVI
Orton vs. Rhodes vs. DiBiase
Best breakup ever.




WrestleMania XXVII
Edge vs. Alberto Del Rio
Edge speared his way to a win in his last match.


WrestleMania XXVIII
Team Johnny v. Team Teddy
Eve left a sore mark on *WM*. And Zack Ryder.

WrestleMania 29
Team Hell No vs. Dolph Ziggler & Big E
Dolph steals the show.

WrestleMania 30
Who will have the most underrated match at this year's *WrestleMania*?



THE LEGEND OF BRONX HONDA



The reason you've never heard of this (in)famous international wrestling icon is simple—he's never set foot in a WWE ring. But the reasons for that might be even more mysterious than the man himself.

BY THE WWE MAGAZINE STAFF



PHOTO CREDIT: JERRY FELDMAN

BRONX HONDA #1

©1993 TK Sports



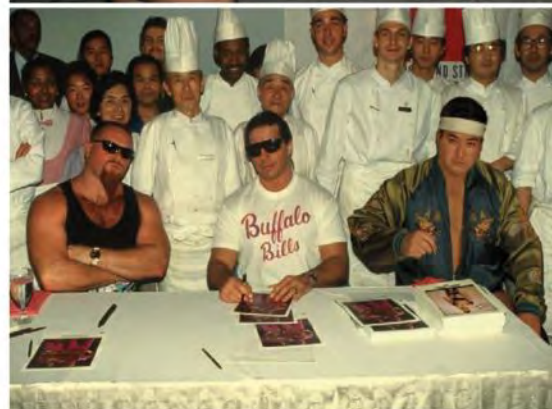
ick up a *WWE Encyclopedia*, and you'll find more than a handful of Superstars that you've probably never heard of, let alone actually seen compete in a match. But soon enough, thanks to the wonders of WWE Network, at some point in the not-too-distant future, you'll be able to watch them all in action, all except for one man. And his name is...Bronx Honda. But why have you never heard of this living legend from the "land of the rising sun"? That's because he's one of the most elusive, ornery, temperamental and talented grapplers never to actually set foot in a WWE ring. Why? In this investigative report, *WWE Magazine* tries to answer this most tantalizing question.

We first heard the name Bronx Honda more than five years ago from one of our former editors and current contributors. So that's where we began our search. "I discovered Bronx Honda in the late '90s at a wrestling convention where they sold rare wrestling videotapes, old-school wrestling memorabilia, and Superstars joined in Q&A sessions with convention-goers," Carlos Mejia, of *ESPN the Magazine*, recalls. "Harley Race was at the con for a session and someone in the crowd asked him, 'Other than yourself, who is the toughest wrestler alive?' Race—after some careful consideration—answered 'Bronx Honda,' and went on to tell us a story on how Honda finished a match after fracturing a vertebra upon delivering one of his trademark devastating suplexes. The match was less than 24 hours after an incredibly foolish mugger stabbed Honda. According to Race, Honda hospitalized the mugger with injuries far worse than the vertebra ailment. After that, I tried to track down every Honda videotape that I could get my hands on, but there were simply none to be found."

Next, we hit up Benjamin Brown, WWE Archivist, to see what, if anything, he might have on hand or stashed away in the vaults of the WWE collection. We needed something physical, tangible and visible, and if anyone would have something for us, it would be the Archivist. All we were able to obtain, however, were the scant few photos that you're looking at in these pages. "Bronx Honda has a history of not only stellar in-ring work and as a Superstar with limitless charisma; his ring robe collection rivals that of WWE Hall of Famer Ric Flair," Brown states. "Bronx currently has these ornate robes on loan to the Tokyo National Museum of Art with explicit instructions that they must never be touched or photographed. WWE would love to have something, anything, from Bronx Honda to house in the Archives and to show to members of the WWE Universe at events such as *WrestleMania Axxess*, but this has proven next to impossible. Scouring eBay in several languages, attending public and private auctions has produced no results. Not a feather from his robe, nor a single kneepad, has made it to the collectors' market in decades. Hopefully someone sees this and has a lead to share...anything?"

As we suspected, we were hitting quite a few dead ends in our search. There were no clips of Bronx Honda to be found on YouTube or Daily Motion (we've even heard that he's an investor and majority shareholder in a company that specializes in removing pirated content from video sites) and there was very little to be found with a cursory Google search (look up his name and what you'll find is a Manhattan area car dealership). But we would not be deterred. So the next man we went to has been around the business for decades, none other than noted wrestling journalist Bill Apter of *1Wrestling.com*. "From photos I have seen sent by my Japanese correspondent Koichi, to the scant few videos that collectors have sent me, Honda's name should fit right in with Japanese wrestling legends like Antonio Inoki and Giant Shohei Baba. In fact, years ago I was tipped off that he was to be a surprise entrant in the 1996 Royal Rumble but due to 'unspecified circumstances,' he was unable to participate." (Note: All Japan Wrestling stalwart Takao Ozmori competed in his place.) Of all the rumors we catalogued, many fell under that particular explanation. Time and time again, it seemed as if Bronx Honda was poised to make his way to these shores and compete in WWE, only to pull out, disappear or even in some case no-show his scheduled debut.

But as it turned out, WWE wasn't the only promotion interested in Bronx Honda in the United States especially during the wrestling boom years of the Attitude Era. Not only was their cutthroat competition for TV ratings



but also for signing the next big free agent. "I can't believe *WWE Magazine* or *WWE.com* have never really touched on the career of Bronx Honda. Although, to be honest, we only mention Japanese wrestling if it is part of our talents' pre-WWE career, says Joey Styles, Vice President of WWE Digital Media Content and the voice of ECW. "WWE and WCW didn't believe that smaller competitors or competitors who couldn't speak English could draw money in America, there aren't many Japanese wrestlers in WWE history. ECW, on the other hand, was the island of misfit toys. Wrestlers did not fit the WWE and WCW mold were welcomed by Paul Heyman. ECW had talent exchange agreements with hardcore promotion Frontier Martial Arts Wrestling and high-flying Michinoku Pro Wrestling. In fact, ECW's first pay-per-view, *Barely Legal* on April 13, 1997, featured a phenomenal six-man tag team match featuring the stars of Michinoku Pro. Many reading this article already know most of what I have written. What very few know is that Paul Heyman almost signed Bronx Honda when his negotiations to leave Japan and sign with WWE fell apart in 1996. In fact, Bronx Honda vs. Stan Hansen almost happened at *Barely*



particular individual, had his own rumor to report of BH's vaunted temper and feats of strength: "I heard Bronx Honda once pulled a parking meter straight out of the ground in front of the Ribera Steakhouse in Tokyo. I'm not sure why, but I think it had to do with them not having a jacket in his size."

William Regal, having competed in more than 44 countries and islands in his career, is perhaps one of, if not the, most well-travelled Superstar on the planet. He's also seen

1. Bronx Honda dares to call out Andre the Giant during a WWE tour of Japan.
2. Bronx sits next to Bret "Hit Man" Hart and Jim "The Anvil" Neidhart at an autograph signing in Tokyo.
3. A never-aired segment of *Friday Night Videos*. Apparently, "Mean" Gene Okerlund said something to anger Honda, and he left the set. The clip was lost to the ages.

Regal. It's not easy being Bronx Honda. The pressures put on him to live up to that standard have sent him off the deep end at times in his life. It's never affected him in the ring. He's human like everyone else. He does his thing, he goes away and you don't hear about him for a while. There's always rumors about where he's gone to. You'll hear all these outrageous claims, like he's ripped somebody's eye out in a fight in Cyprus, or he's been to Malta and been arrested and thrown in jail. But you'll never know the truth of it."

Much as we suspected, the locker room was full of rumors but no actual facts—but the Superstars...well, they do like to gossip. So we had one last hope, one last individual who knows every single Superstar in this industry, none other than WWE Hall of Famer Howard Finkel. "The Fink" actually claims to have seen Bronx Honda compete in a match in North America (in Canada, of course). We assumed it might have been in Calgary for the Hart family-run Stampede Wrestling. Bronx Honda's strong style would have fit in perfectly with the type of grapplers they brought into their promotion. But this match, in fact, occurred in an ice casino in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. "I've seen many Superstars in my time, but Bronx Honda stuck out like a sore thumb in my eyes," Finkel says. "My interest always gets piqued whenever a Japanese import is about to arrive here in the States, and the buzz he generated preceding his arrival added more fuel to my anticipation. But regretfully it did not pan out. As an in-ring competitor, his acceleration during a match seemed to stall out on him more times than not. The fans realized this as well, and gave Honda their own 'Bronx Cheer' for his efforts."

In the end, it seems as if Bronx Honda simply could not live up to the hype that surrounded his international career. And honestly, how could he? With all of his eccentricities, whether it be his much-vaunted temper or his hard-partying ways, there just seemed to be something about competing here in the United States, whether it be for WWE or any other promotion, that he couldn't quite cope with. We got the sense that it all became just too much. Chances are we'll never have to opportunity to see this individual in the ring, especially now that his decades-long career is drawing to a close. But this is certainly how legends are born. If Bronx Honda came here and competed, even for just a short time, even for just a single match, given all the opportunities presented to him, would we be speaking about him in such hushed and reverent tones today? Would there be this air of mystery that surrounds and permeates his illustrious career? Perhaps never setting foot in the WWE was part of his plan all along. Perhaps this "pro's pro" is playing us just like he's played crowd after crowd all around the globe. 🍷



Legal, but Honda and Heyman couldn't agree on money...or Paul forgot to return his call. Either is very likely."

Ask WWE Superstars about Bronx Honda and wait for that look on their faces. It's a knowing air, but also one of someone who's dying to reveal a secret. Cody Rhodes grew up around this business and has always fancied himself a student of the game and its history, but even he could only unearth hearsay. "Well, I just know rumors about Bronx Honda. He was supposed to be at the first *WrestleMania* with Bruiser Brody. The biggest rumor going around is that he was actually Wahoo McDaniel. You know, just like when there were supposedly multiple Ultimate Warriors and such. I also heard that Bronx Honda randomly visited Texas high school football games to scout potential talent in Japan, one of them being a young JBL." (JBL would neither confirm nor deny this.)

Jack Swaggar, when queried about this

and heard his fair share of tall tales about Bronx Honda. "There's an old saying that's certainly been worn out, but he is the pro's pro," Regal says. "He'd be doing things in the ring that were always incredible and innovative. He used to do this monkey flip (a move often referred to as "The Rising Sun") and before his opponent had landed on the floor he would nip up and dropkick them before they landed and that would send them spinning like a cartwheel and into the ropes. There's just nothing like it and I've never seen anyone else actually pull it off. I'll tell you, I've been inside the pyramids in Cairo, I've been to the Taj Mahal, I've been to the top of the Empire State Building, but nothing, in my mind, is more amazing than that move." But for every high spot and jawdropping moment in his career there seems to be a bit of a dark cloud that's always on the horizon. "Being that talented, as I've come to know, always comes at a price," states

R-Truth, Mr. McMahon, cosplay, blue & gray,

TITLE



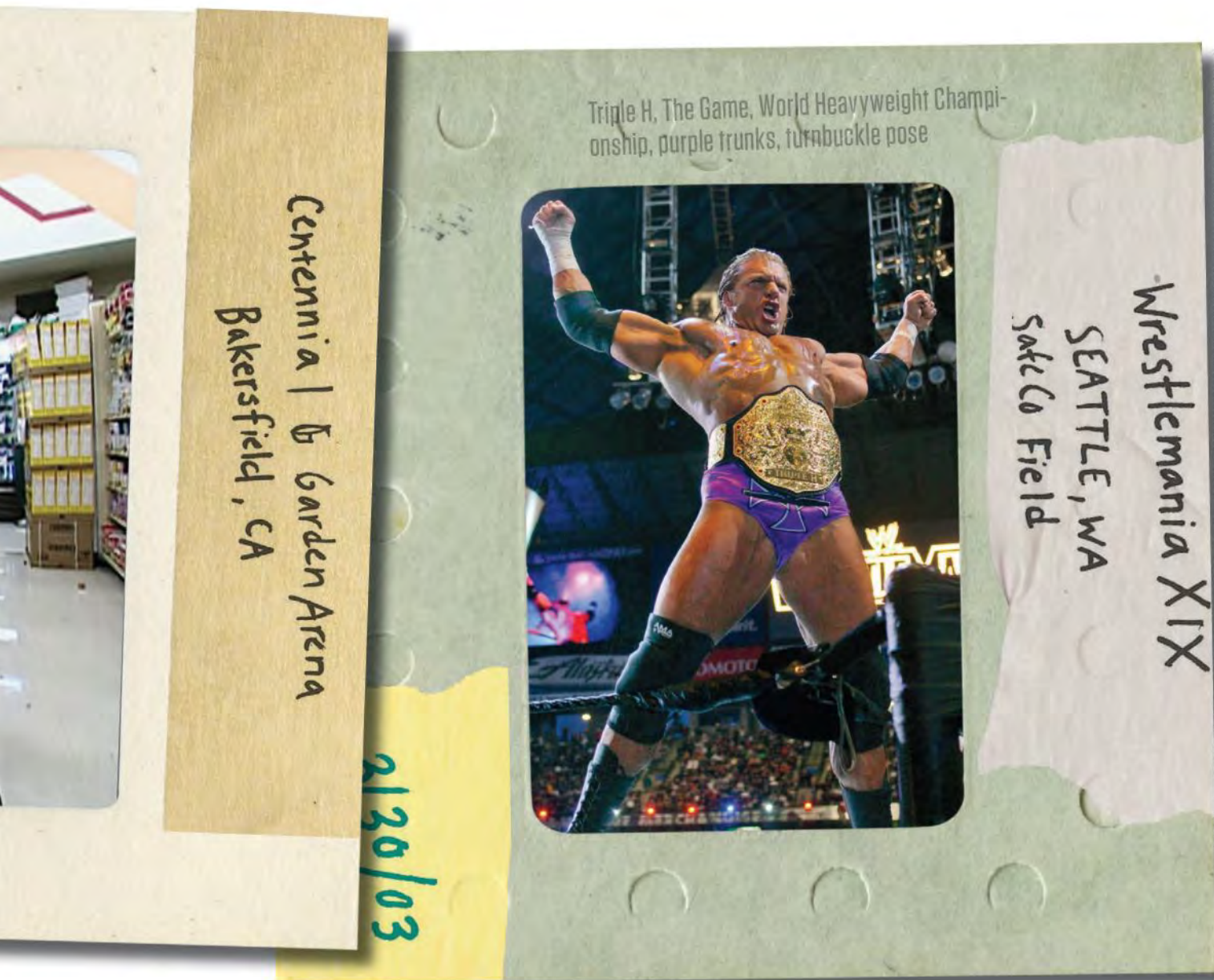
6/6/11 RAW
Richmond, VA Coliseum

12/13/01

Stone Cold Steve Austin, Booker T, grocery store,
baking flower, making a mess, clean up aisle 7



★ ★ REMEMBER ★ ★
THAT TIME?



The staff of *WWE Magazine*, *WWE.com* and the WWE Video Team have watched countless hours of *Raw*, *SmackDown* and pay-per-views in our lifetimes. It's our job. We've seen it all, yet specific and peculiar moments have stuck with us. They're funny, weird, underrated or just plain unforgettable. For some reason, though, they've made an emotional connection and a home in our minds and now we're finally kicking them out—for your entertainment of course!

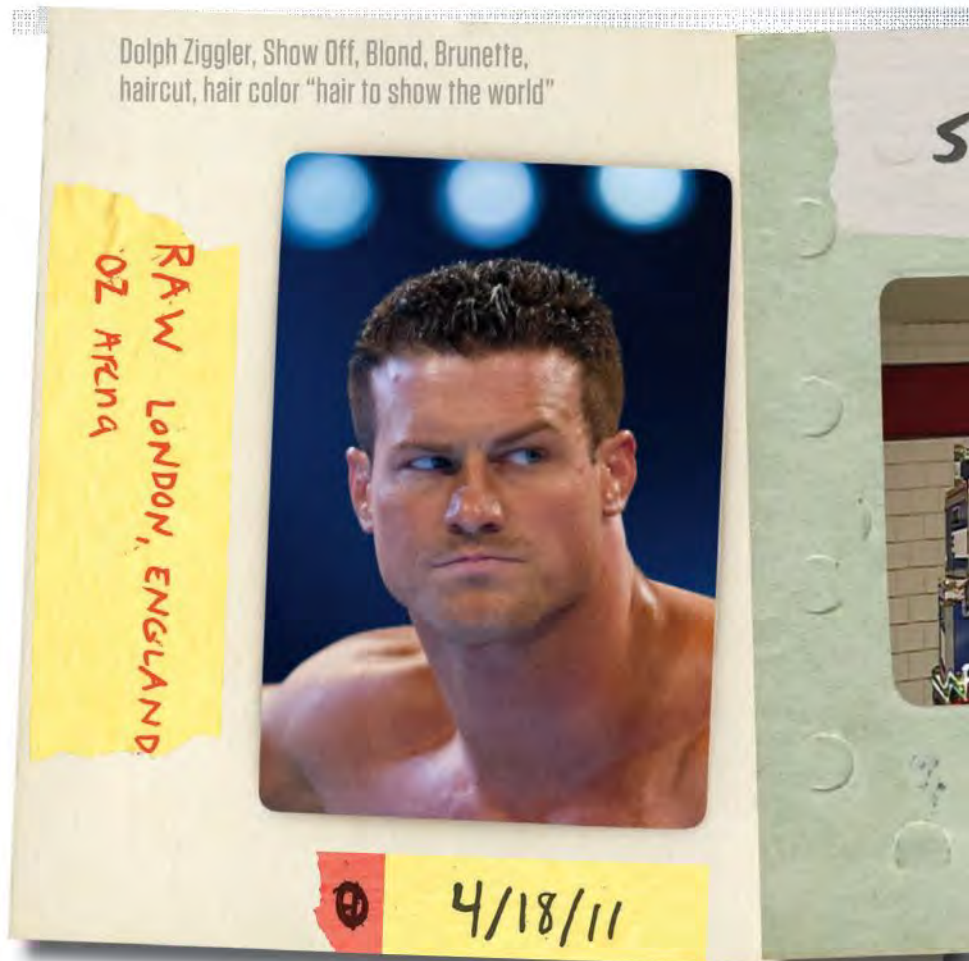
■ **JOHN MIHALY**,
Editor-In-Chief | *WWE Magazine*

Remember that time when Dolph Ziggler had short, brown hair for like a week?

We're going to give The Show Off the benefit of the doubt and just assume that he's a natural blond. That's why we were shocked when he showed up as Vickie Guerrero's arm candy (*Raw*, 4/18/11) sporting a new, brunette hairdo. At first we thought it was Evan Bourne's older brother, but no, seems like Ziggles just lost a match (entertainingly, as always, mind you) with a bottle of Just For Men. Yeah, that was weird.

And remember that time when Edge had his own soft drink?

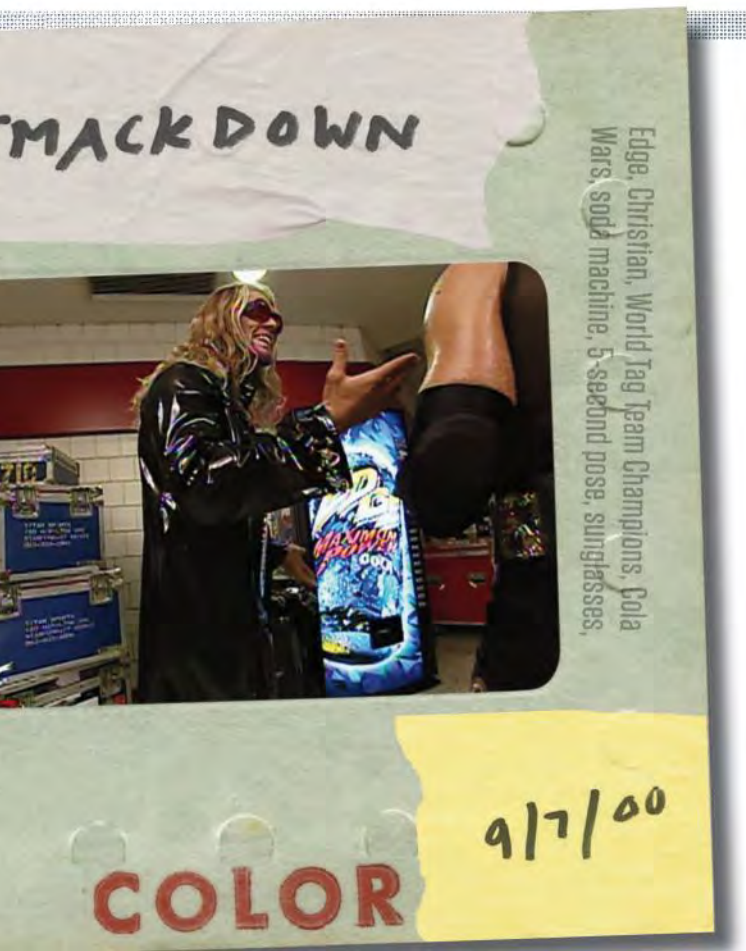
Well, not really his own. During The Attitude Era, Edge and Christian were walking backstage (*SmackDown*, 9/7/00) and came across a vending machine for Edge Cola (which was, in fact, a real soft drink). A pre-Rated-R Superstar stopped to remark, "A soda with my name on it? Now, more than ever, sodas rule!" No sooner did Edge perform a fist pump at this revelation of his than The Rock snuck up from behind and completely annihilated the then Tag Team Champions with a folding chair. Yeah, that was highly caffeinated hilarity!



■ **STEFAN STANKEVICH** | Associate Producer | *WWE Digital Video Group*

Remember when The Miz & John Morrison tried to battle-rap Cryme Tyme?

By way of *WWE.com*'s "The Dirt Sheet," Miz and Morrison thought up the most intimidating of intimidation tactics and wrote a rap song, "Mizfits & MoFos"....and then performed it in a music video (before *Cyber Sunday '08*). Miz and Morrison went on to win a Slammy for "Tag Team of the Year." Yeah, that was talent.



■ **ADAM KIRSHNER** | Associate Television Producer
WWE Digital Video Group

Remember the time when Mr. McMahon returned to Raw and helped The Rock go to *WrestleMania 2000*?

I was there that night, and can tell you that was the absolute loudest I've ever heard a crowd for any event in my life, (*Raw*, 3/13/00)—not just WWE. I get goosebumps watching that moment back knowing that I was there. Yeah, that was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

■ **MATT CHRISTENSEN** | Editor, *WWE Kids*

Remember that time when Triple H wore boldly colored trunks?

This was after his first quad tear, and he came back, won some titles, and then started Evolution. In the process, he tried out some red and purple gear (*WrestleMania XIX*), which was a big departure from his usual black, which he eventually went back to. Once you go black...Yeah, that was brief.

Or remember that time when The Hardy Boys used to wrestle in khakis?

Not, like, pleated khakis, but raver khakis in late 1998 and 1999. They were the same style as the black pants they made famous, but a little more business casual. They even got a pair for their manager, PS Hayes. Yeah, that was sensible.

And remember that time when Ben Stiller was on *Raw*?

This was well before the celebrity guest host era. He was promoting *Mystery Men* (*Raw*, 7/26/99), and got into it with Jeff Jarrett. They met on a fateful Monday night, and the confrontation ended with Stiller in the Figure Four. It was like a more violent version of the "Walk Off" from *Zoolander*. Yeah, that was...so hot.



■ **CARLOS MEJIA**
Editorial Contributor | *WWE Magazine*

Remember that time when Chris Jericho looked like this?

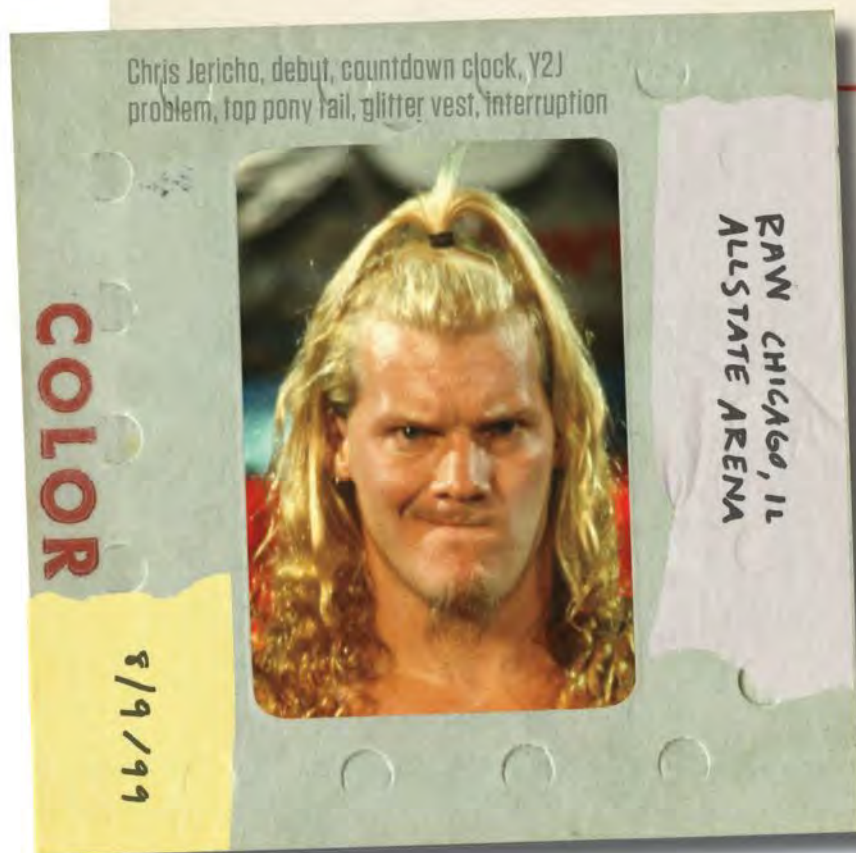
And we took him seriously (*Raw*, 8/9/99)?
Yeah, what were we thinking?

Or remember that time when Stone Cold beat the heck out of Booker T in a grocery store?

I can't even remember the eventual match these two Hall of Famers contested in the ring or a long-lasting rivalry, but I do remember Austin literally beating up the King of the Spinaronie with the entire food pyramid (*SmackDown*, 12/13/01). Yeah, that was awesomely delicious.

And remember that time when the ECW Championship was defended against the WWE Championship?

No, no, no, not the newer *ECW* you might remember, which was a brand like *Raw* and *SmackDown*. We're talking about the Paul Heyman owned *ECW*, which was independent from *WWE* altogether. Tazz, a *WWE* contracted wrestler who was also *ECW* Champion, (who defeated Mike Awesome, a contracted *WCW* wrestler at an *ECW* show!), faced Triple H, the *WWE* Champion on *SmackDown* (4/20/00). Yeah, that was really breaking down the fourth wall.



■ **ZACH LINDER**
Digital Producer | *WWE.com*

Remember that time when Don Muraco ate lunch during a match?

While reigning as Intercontinental Champion, The Beach Bum enjoyed a soft drink and was fed a meatball hero by his manager Captain Lou Albano, all while handing Victor Mercado a swift defeat on *All-Star Wrestling* (10/15/83). Yeah, that was tasty.

Remember that time when Paul Heyman fired Sabu in the ring?

It takes guts to deliver a pink slip to an icon in front of rabid fans, but that's exactly what Heyman did at the *ECW Arena* (*ECW Three-Way Dance TV Taping*, April 8, 1995) when Sabu no-showed a big match to wrestle in Japan instead. Yeah, that was hardcore.

■ **SEAN COHEN** Video Editor | *WWE Digital Video Group*

Remember that time when Tiny Tim was a guest on "The King's Court"?

You're going to probably need a trip to Wikipedia to find out all about whom Tiny Tim was. But Jerry Lawler broke his trademark ukulele (*Raw*, 7/19/93) and made him cry... Yeah, that was weird.

Remember that time Ultimo Dragon lost to his own cape?

WWE was in the midst of a bit of a Cruiserweight renaissance. The next masked man

to come to the company certainly left a lasting impression but not a good one. Ultimo slipped

on the ramp during his ring entrance at *WrestleMania XX* (3/14/04). Yeah, that was hilarious.



■ **CRAIG TELLO**
Executive Editor | [WWE.com](#)

Remember when Randy Orton's theme song was "This Fire Burns"?

Killswitch Engage's metal anthem was briefly tested as The Viper's badass new entrance theme, just prior to *WrestleMania 22* (*Smack-Down*, 3/3/06). Yeah, that was a hot minute.

Or remember that time when Al Bundy hosted *Saturday Night's* Main Event ... from the couch?

On the *Married...with Children* set, Bundy (with Buck the dog) watched along with WWE fans 'round the world (*Saturday Night's* Main Event, 10/27/92) as Shawn Michaels won his first Intercontinental Title and Bret "Hit Man" Hart faced off with Papa Shango. Yeah, that was one strange Saturday night.



■ **RYAN MURPHY**
Features Editor | [WWE.com](#)

Remember that time Sable showed up on *Nitro*?

She didn't get in the ring and didn't say a word, but for a brief moment the most popular Diva of The Attitude Era was front and center on WCW's flagship show (*Nitro*, 6/14/99). Eric Bischoff totally flipped out about it, too! Yeah, that was typical of WCW.

on a chain (*Nitro*, 10/23/00)! Clearly a bad idea, but even a jungle cat wouldn't mess with The Genetic Freak. Yeah, that was unsafe.

And remember that time Armando Estrada managed Tyson Kidd?

WWE fans hadn't seen Armando Estrada since his stint as ECW's GM



Or remember that time Scott Steiner brought a tiger to the ring?

WCW was often ugly to watch at its bitter end, but that wasn't true of Scott Steiner. The Big Bad Booty Daddy abused opponents, spouted more quotable phrases than Ron Burgundy and once hit the ring alongside a full-grown tiger

when he suddenly emerged as Tyson Kidd's mouthpiece on the May 26, 2011, edition of "*WWE Superstars*." The union only lasted one night as Kidd sampled managers, including Matt Striker, Vickie Guerrero and Michael Hayes, like a fat kid at Baskin-Robbins. Then Estrada disappeared. Yeah, that was random.

■ **ANTHONY BENIGNO** | Assoc. Multimedia Producer | [WWE.com](#)

Remember that time when R-Truth seceded from WWE?

He sang a song and everything. In the midst of his mental breakdown (*Raw*, June 6, 2011), the former U.S. Champion interrupted Stone Cold Steve Austin's meeting with Mr. McMahon to formally announce his secession from the WWE Universe, all while dressed in duds that would make Stonewall Jackson jealous. Yeah, that was strange.

■ JEFF LABOON

Assistant Editor | *WWE Magazine*

Remember that time when Shawn Michaels joined The nWo?

And then he proceeded to recruit Triple H to join the group (*Raw*, 7/8/02). But then The nWo dissolved the following week? It seemed like a Kliq reunion was a certainty. Then, they just broke up. Yeah,

Also, remember that time when a 400-pound Rikishi channeled his inner Superfly?

Big Papa Uso nearly crushed the life out of Val Venis with a giant splash off the top of a steel cage at (*Fully Loaded*, 7/23/00). Everyone took big risks in 2000, but who could've guessed



that was disappointing...and a tease.

Or remember that time when Stone Cold Steve Austin went all *Hunger Games* on DX?

The Bionic Redneck did nothing short of systematically hunting them down each Degenerate One by one on *SmackDown*, 10/28/99. The best moment was when he prank-called X-Pac and dropped the ceiling on his head like a classic cartoon. That sight still brings a smile to my face. Yeah, that was classic.

Rikishi would fly. Imagine being on the receiving end of that impact. ...Yeah, that was scary.

And remember that time Crash Holly went to an amusement park on his day off?

He ended up having to run through a ball pit to just retain his Hardcore Championship under the 24/7 defense rules (*SmackDown*, 3/16/00). I remember watching that with my dad and he was nearly in tears from laughter. ... Yeah, that was epic.



■ MAX BAKKE | Associate Editor | *WWE Magazine*

Remember that time when William Regal and NXT Rookie Skip Sheffield made a bet in front of Mindfreak Criss Angel?

Ever the skeptic, Regal was convinced that Angel couldn't read his mind (*Raw*, 3/8/10), but he did, and the Master Villain had to pay up—to the tune of one Travis Tritt CD. We don't know if Skippy ever got his CD, but we hope he did. Yeah, that was magically ridiculous.



■ KAYLA PARENT

Assistant Editor | *WWE Magazine*

Remember that time when Stone Cold surprised The Rock at *WrestleMania XXVII*?

After claiming that he could create an unforgettable moment with just about anyone, The Rock was hilariously felt up by Mae Young. Who was next? His former nemesis Stone Cold, which left The Rock shocked, and us nostalgic. Yeah, that was perfect.

Remember that time when Shawn Michaels Superkicked Stan?

Amidst a torrent of highlights during DX's 2006 reunion, one of my most cherished is when HBK let out his frustration on a poor backstage employee, Stan at *Taboo Tuesday*. Did Stan follow up with Human Resources? Yeah, that was showstopping.

RoboCop, Sting, Detroit, Washington DC, "Go Robo!"
Four Horsemen, steel cage, the '90s



WCW CAPITAL COMBAT

5/19/90

■ JAMES WORTMAN

Multimedia Producer | WWE.com

Remember that time when the "Future of Law Enforcement" RoboCop saved Sting from The Four Horsemen?

No, not the actor (Peter Weller) who played RoboCop, but the actual character? After a lot of hype, the mechanical lawman showed up at WCW's *Capital Combat* (5/19/90), to pry his pal from a cage and scare off Arn Anderson. Yeah, that was Robo-riffic.

Or remember that time when JBL yelled at a dinosaur in Tokyo?

After taking a tranquilizer dart to the neck (guess that trademark towel of his had a pretty low fiber count) on *SmackDown* (2/10/05), the woozy WWE Champion dragged an inflatable T-Rex into the ring, stripped down to his pink boxers and challenged the toy to a fight. Yeah, that was huge (in Japan).

And remember that time when "Mean" Gene Okerlund wore short shorts (we're talking super short here) and trained with Hulk Hogan?

In a series of clips worthy of a Stallone montage (Frank, not Sly), Okerlund bulked up with The Hulkster to take on Mr. Fuji & George "The Animal" Steele in tag team action. Yeah, that was surreal.

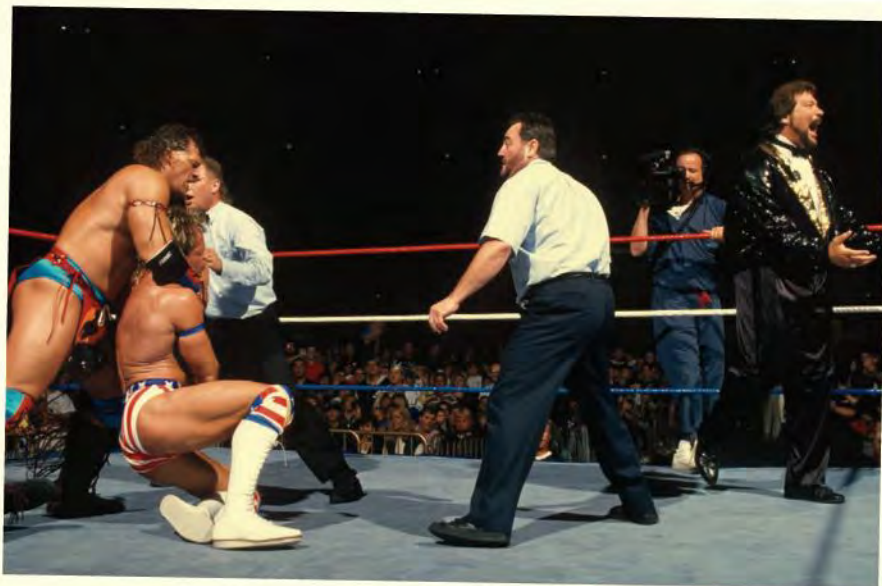
■ MATT ZIMMER

Assistant Video Producer,
WWE Digital Video Group

Remember that time Tatanka sold out to the Million Dollar Man?

This moment was great because as a child, I loved The Million Dollar Man and he completely bamboozled the WWE Universe. For weeks leading up to Tatanka's match against Lex Luger, Ted DiBiase made everyone think it

was Luger who turned his back on the U.S.A. and all of his fans. However when it was all said and done, it was Tatanka who cashed in on a golden opportunity (*SummerSlam*, 8/29/94) and left laughing a richer man. Yeah, that was money!



RINGSIDE

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■ 1/26, **RUMBLE**

MISTAKE OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

Wyatts set sights on Cena, aim high

Was it something John Cena did? It certainly wasn't anything he said because, to be fair, it was Randy Orton who called Bray Wyatt a "Duck Dynasty reject" after Wyatt laid out Daniel Bryan to kick off the *Royal Rumble*. Regardless, with Cena about to defeat the WWE World Heavyweight Champion using the STF, the lights went out and The Wyatt Family surrounded him. The distraction allowed Orton to floor his challenger with the RKO and retain his championship. After costing Cena the match, Wyatt knocked him out with Sister Abigail, making his next objective clear.



By **JEFF LABOON**
Photography by **CRAIG MELVIN**



726

Weeks between WWE
Tag Team Title reigns
for The New Age
Outlaws.



■ 2/3, **RAW**

“YOU’VE STILL GOT IT!” NOMINEE

The Outlaws ride again with an upset inside Steel Cage

GOLDUST MADE ONE OF THE best returns ever in 2013, so he can appreciate The New Age Outlaws’s 14-year journey for redemption. Road Dogg and Billy Gunn last held the Tag Titles in 2000, but they

stunned The Brotherhood at *Royal Rumble* to capture them again. The Outlaws stood tall in the Cage rematch, surviving a bananas Cody Rhodes moonsault to retain. It was high-risk—just with no reward.

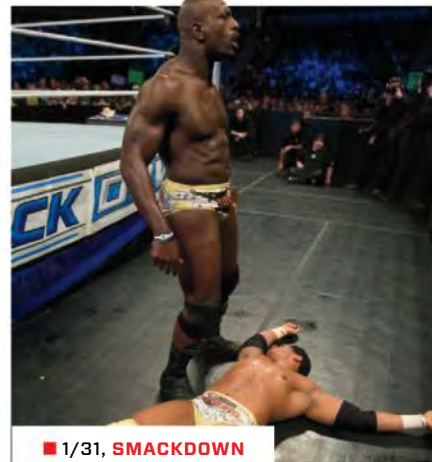


■ 1/29, **SMACKDOWN**

IMPACT OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

3MB sandwiched by Big E, Usos

A PERFECTLY TIMED double splash and Big Ending crushed 3MB before Jimmy & Jey Uso invited Big E to break out his finest *Fresh-Prince*-inspired dance moves.



■ 1/31, **SMACKDOWN**

BREAKUP OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

O'Neil eyes "Prime Time"

TITUS O'NEIL didn't know much about losing before coming to WWE, and after another loss for The Prime Time Players, O'Neil hit his breaking point. Darren Young pleaded with "The Big Deal," but O'Neil wouldn't hear any of it, throwing him into the barrier. We thought family stuck together.



■ 1/20, **RAW**

RETURN OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

Animal unleashed, Batista struggles to make friends upon his return

Star of *Guardians of the Galaxy*, Batista wasted no time in reminding the roster why he used to dominate WWE when he confronted former Evolution running buddy Randy Orton.

"BEING FAMOUS DOESN'T MAKE YOU A CHAMPION."



—ALBERTO DEL RIO, QUESTIONING BATISTA'S QUEST FOR THE WWE WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE; 2/3/14, **RAW**



69

All-time win percentage for John Cena against Randy Orton on *Raw*.

■ 2/11, **RAW**

RIVALRY OF THE DECADE NOMINEE

Long-standing enemies add new chapter in storied history

RANDY ORTON may have had the better of his bitter rival lately, defeating John Cena for the WWE World Heavyweight Championship at *WWE TLC* and retaining the title at *Royal Rumble*. But with The Viper completely

paranoid as he prepared to defend the title inside the Elimination Chamber, Cena dropped him in Los Angeles. Despite Orton's success against Cena of late, the loss added plenty of fuel to this already roaring fire.



■ 1/26, **ROYAL RUMBLE**

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

Kingston continues to turn lemons into lemonade at the *Royal Rumble*

KOFI KINGSTON CONTINUES to set the standard for *Royal Rumble* acrobatics, as The Wildcat lunged from the entrance ramp to the apron, staving off elimination and rejecting gravity.

“KOFI KINGSTON JUST TURNED INTO BOB BEAMON!”

—JBL, COMPARING KINGSTON TO A RECORD-BREAKING LONG JUMPER; 1/26/14, **ROYAL RUMBLE**





■ 2/3, **RAW**

HR NIGHTMARE OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

Director of Operations Chokeslams former best buddy, goat man

DANIEL BRYAN didn't have much reason to trust The Authority when they gave him a non-title matchup with WWE World Heavyweight Champion Randy Orton—their track record in his matches isn't the best. After Bryan clocked The Viper with a Running Knee, Kane snuck into the ring and joined Orton in a post-match beatdown before finishing his former tag partner with a Chokeslam. Kane may be "corporate," but there's a wolf in that sheep's suit.

13

Times Cleveland's
85-mile-long
Cuyahoga River
caught on fire.



■ 1/27, RAW

CITY OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

Hometowners battle for bragging rights in Cleveland

CLEVELAND STICKS by its own—even if it's adopted but fictional Clevelander Ricky Vaughn. Sorry, "Wild Thing," there's a new hero in Ohio. Thanks to a Zig Zag on an unsuspecting Miz, Dolph Ziggler became

Cuyahoga's favorite son in the Battle of Cleveland. The heated matchup didn't drive a wedge in between these Clevelanders, though, as Ziggler encouraged Miz to always fight for their city after the match.

P38 WWE FAN ART OF THE MONTH CONTEST FOR April '14. NO PAYMENT OR ENTRY FEE REQUIRED. Void where prohibited. Open only to legal residents of the 50 United States (and D.C.), 18 and older. Online entries must be received between 12:01 am (ET) on 3/25/14 and 11:59 pm (ET) on 4/21/14 (the "Contest Period"). Go to WWW.WWE.COM/MAGAZINE/ and create a user profile, then submit your

entry by uploading artwork depicting WWE Superstars (the "Submission"). Submissions must be two dimensional (flat) and online entries must be in .jpg, .pdf, or .tif format and at least 300 dpi. To enter by mail, send your Submission, along with your name and other information required in the Official Rules, to: WWE Fan Art of the Month Contest for April '14, Publications, WWE, 1241 East Main St.,

Stamford, CT 06902. Mail-in entries must be postmarked during the Contest Period and received by WWE no later than 4/1/14. Limit 1 entry per person regardless of entry method. You must own all rights to your Submission, assign all such rights to WWE and acknowledge such assignment at time of entry. Entries will not be returned. You will not be paid for your Submission. Grand Prize: One (1) *Royal Rumble 2014*

DVD. Approximate retail value ("ARV") of Grand Prize: \$30 USD Contest subject to complete Official Rules available at WWW.WWE.COM and by sending a SASE (VT residents may omit return postage) to: WWE Fan Art of the Month Contest for April '14 Rules Request, WWE, 1241 East Main St., Stamford, CT 06902. Sponsor: WWE, 1241 East Main Street, Stamford, CT 06902. © WWE, All rights reserved.



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HE'S NEVER **ROYAL**
WON A RUMBLE

Never Been Crowned 
KING OF THE RING

NEVER HELD
ANY
CHAMPIONSHIP IN 

SO WHY IS 
JAKE
ROBERTS

being enshrined in the 
WWE HALL OF FAME?

BY JOHN MIHALY

The answer to that question is quite simple, really. Whenever “The Snake” spit a promo, it chilled you to the bone. Whatever his opponents threw at him, his patented DDT always put them down for the three count. Whenever “The Snake” slithered, truly memorable things happened in and out of the ring. Learn all about this undeniable Legend as we welcome back Jake Roberts to the WWE Universe.

Tell us about the origins of Jake “The Snake” Roberts. Whose idea was it to bring a giant reptile to the ring?

I originally approached Mid-South Wrestling with the idea and was told in no uncertain terms that, “This is not a circus” and that the idea was “stupid.” When I came to Mr. McMahon, the snake was a big part of it. I really jumped on it. But I forgot one thing, I was terrified of snakes. Life is a funny thing: The need not to fail was bigger than my fear. I had a troubled youth; I had a lot of things happen to me in my life that I didn’t like to talk about a whole lot. I had to lie to get out of gym class because I didn’t want anyone to see my legs. I guess it really helped me in my character development because you learn to give an interview that’s believable, because your life is on the line, your past is on the line. If there is anything that was good that came from that bad situation, it was that I learned how to lie. So getting over the fear was very simple. You have a job. If you don’t put on those damn spandex tights, or laced-up boots, which I did not want to do either, and carry a snake, the only other option was not to and not have a job. So it wasn’t really that hard to figure out.

Wait, not only did you have a fear of snakes but you also had a strong dislike for wrestling gear, too?

Back in the day, we had these long road trips. One night I sat down and figured out that it takes me 15 minutes a night to put my boots on and take them off. Seven days a week, twice on Saturday and twice on Sunday. You know you’re talking about a couple of hours a week. Add that up over 38-plus years. So my problem was I really didn’t end want to end up at the gates of heaven or hell and tell whoever is in power there that I’m a dumb son of a bitch who spent three months of my life doing this. And other than the fact of being lazy, that was the look they wanted. Spandex



“BUT I FORGOT ONE THING, I WAS TERRIFIED OF SNAKES
Life is a funny thing
THE NEED NOT TO FAIL WAS BIGGER THAN MY FEAR.”

tights I did not want to do either. The persona I developed wore loose-fitting karate pants because I have skinny legs. My defense for that was have you ever seen fat legs on a racehorse? I have a comeback for just about everything. That’s part of the snake thing too, quick thinking, think on your feet.

You’ve been known as one of the greatest mic guys in the history of this business. Did promos come naturally to you?

Well, one of the things that probably should be known is the reason I never yelled in my interviews was because I can’t yell. I had a knee dropped to my throat when I was 20 years old that crushed my voice box. If I try to go loud, you can’t even understand what is coming out; if I scream, nothing comes out...which really sucks. As far as my thought process, it was really pretty simple: I would steal. My thought was, if I say something you heard before, you automatically start believing what I’m saying for the simple fact that you heard it before. I might


have stolen, a lot was from music, whether it be from Pink Floyd, which was my favorite, or The Rolling Stones. Your brain hears it and says this is true because you’ve heard it before, so therefore it must be true. So now you’re agreeing with my interview no matter what I say. ...My nickname was “One-Take Jake.” I could do two hours of interviews without missing one of the countdowns. And I was just so bored I would come up with stupid things. Give me a word and they would say, “spaghetti.” When you’re doing a great interview, you have to believe what you’re saying. That’s the key to telling a good lie, you have to believe what you are saying. So that was the key to my success. And the fact that I probably do have the sexiest voice on the planet. I happen to have the greatest mustache of all time, too.

Jake, now that you’re back in the WWE Universe, what do you have to say to your fans, both old and new?

I have some apologies that I want to make to WWE and my fans because I could have given so much more had I not been struggling with addiction. I wouldn’t have been what I was had I not been through what I had been. There was a lot of pain involved in this character, a lot of shame involved in this character, a lot of anger involved in this character. In my life, I was always alone. Chances are if you are carrying a

15-foot snake around, not many people really want to know about you. So if I brought it in the locker room with it beside me, I didn’t have a problem needing room.

Whether it was Earthquake squashing the “snake” in the bag or the Blindfold Match or the cobra biting Randy Savage’s arm, Jake Roberts was always at the heart of some of the most memorable moments in WWE history. But he was never a World Champion. Why was that?

Well, it just didn’t work. It wasn’t something that I had to have to make me a star, and I’m so grateful to Mr. McMahon for giving me the opportunity to spin that story time and again, whether it be with Steamboat or DiBiase or Bad News. The greatest compliment I ever got was the fact that I kept getting opportunity after opportunity to work with all this incredible talent. I’m sure there was some jealousy involved, because I wanted more but if you quit wanting more, brother, then you should get out of the business. 

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Step behind the scenes to catch Superstars & Divas in rare moments, like when a **Hound of Justice** calmly hums a tune before creating chaos.

Before *Sierra-Hotel-India-Echo-Lima-Delta* blares over the speakers and he maneuvers through a heated WWE Universe, Dean Ambrose appreciates peace and calm.

"I like to sing out loud before a match. It helps that we always have to leave a bit

earlier to make our entrance because sometimes it can be hectic. It puts us in the eye of the storm, so it gives us a second to get on the same page. And once the music hits, we are ready."

Ambrose craves the chaotic and frenetic style The Shield

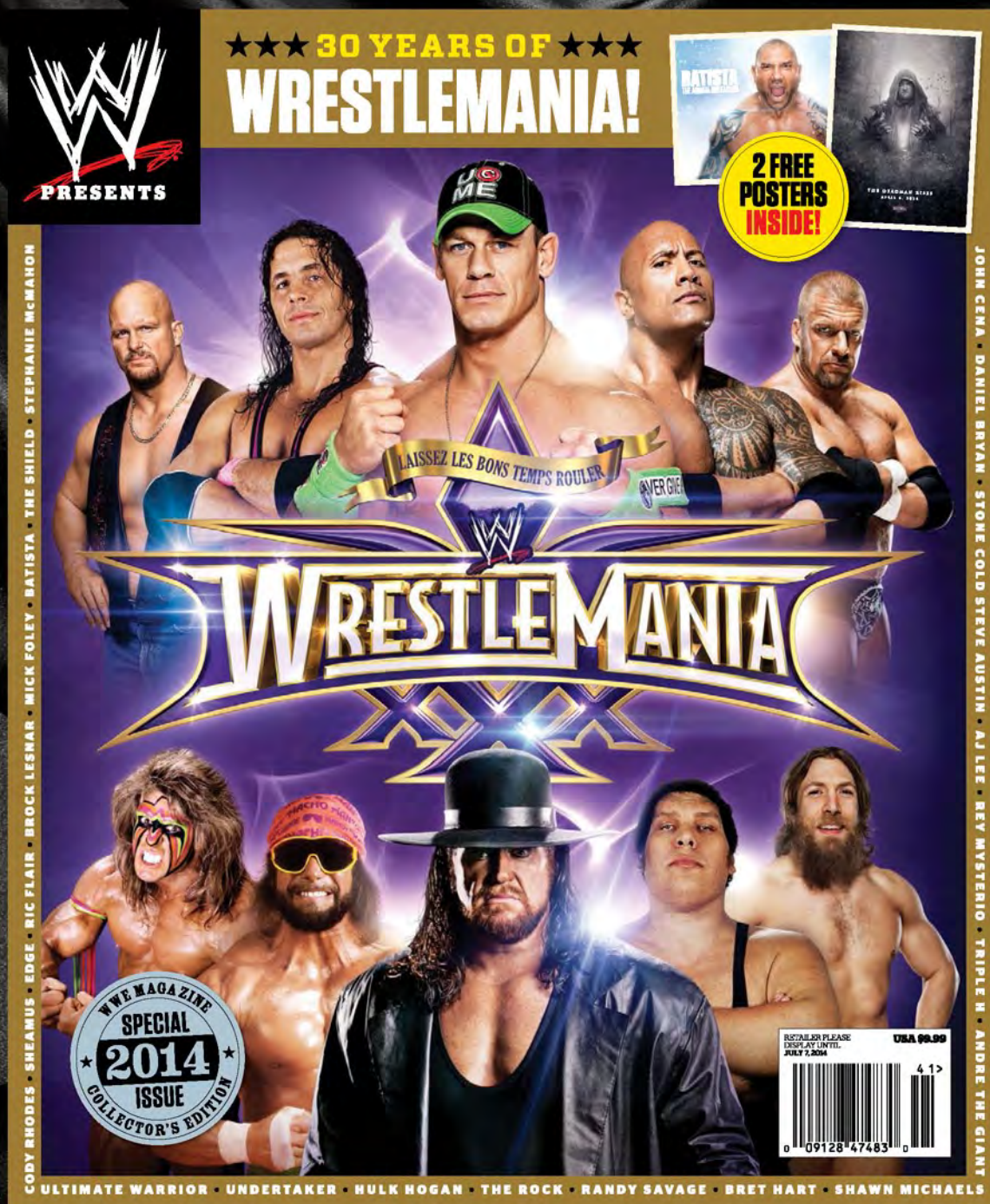
bring to WWE, from their entrance through the crowd to their exciting offense.

Despite some dissension in The Hounds of Justice of late as they jostle to be the top dog in the group, Ambrose thinks individuality makes the trio so strong.

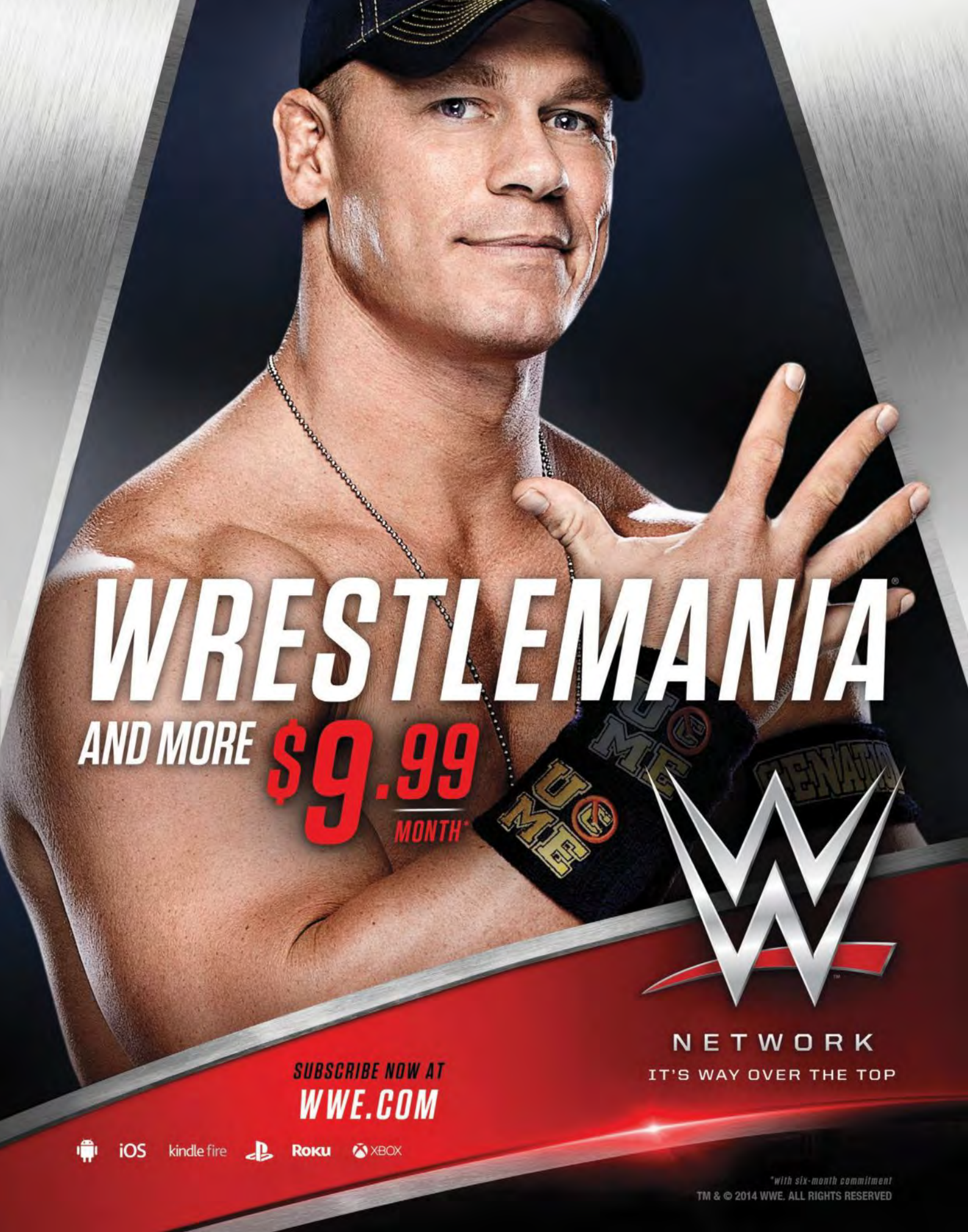
"A chair will fall if one of the legs doesn't measure up to the other one, so it's good that we can carry our own weight. It's also good that we're three individuals with three different identities. We all have our own role and our own job, and it fits together."

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